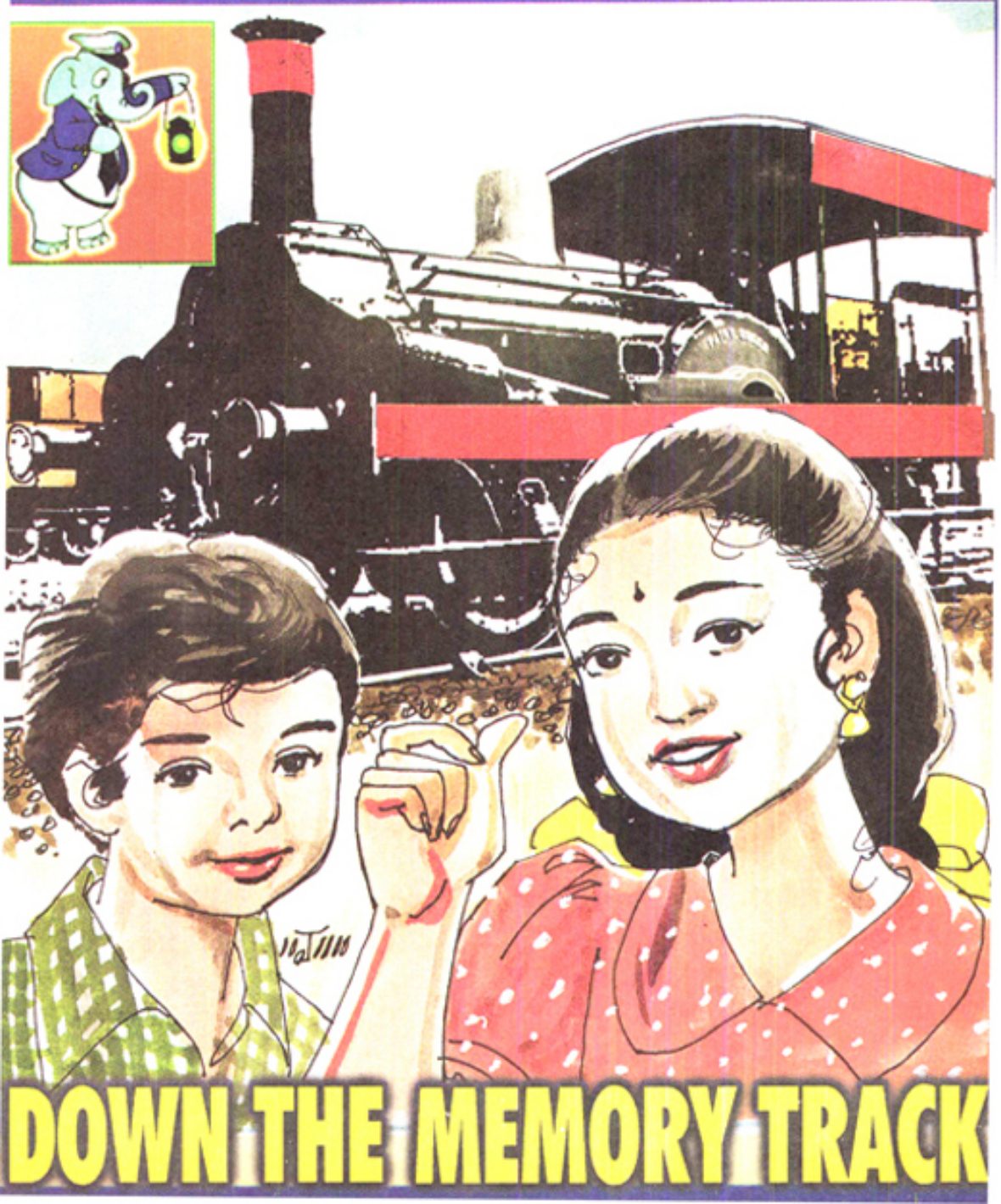
GOKULAM

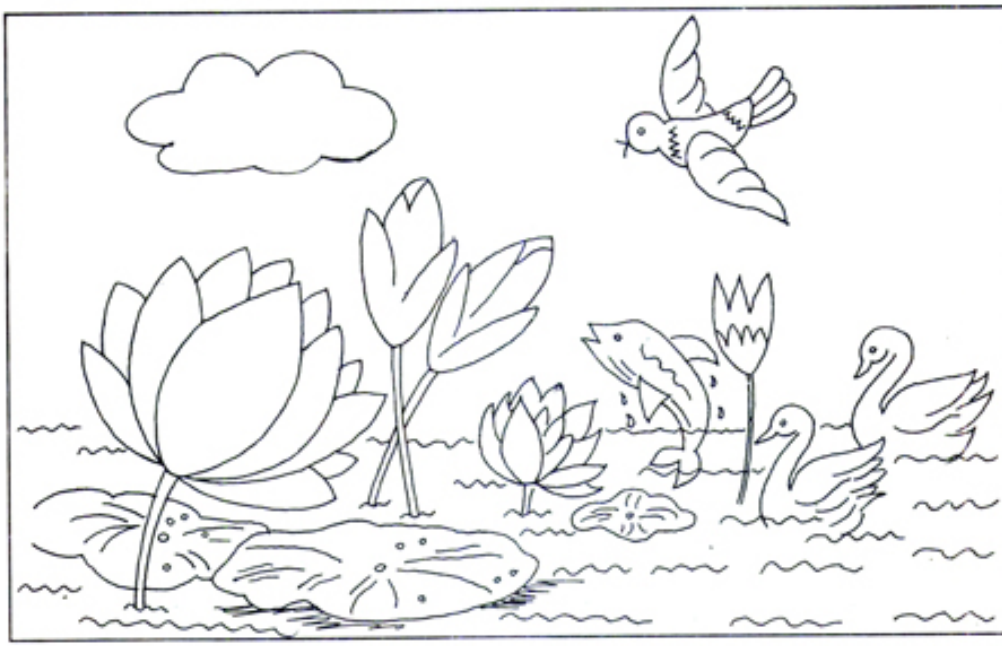
Rs.6/-
AUGUST 2002

The monthly magazine for children

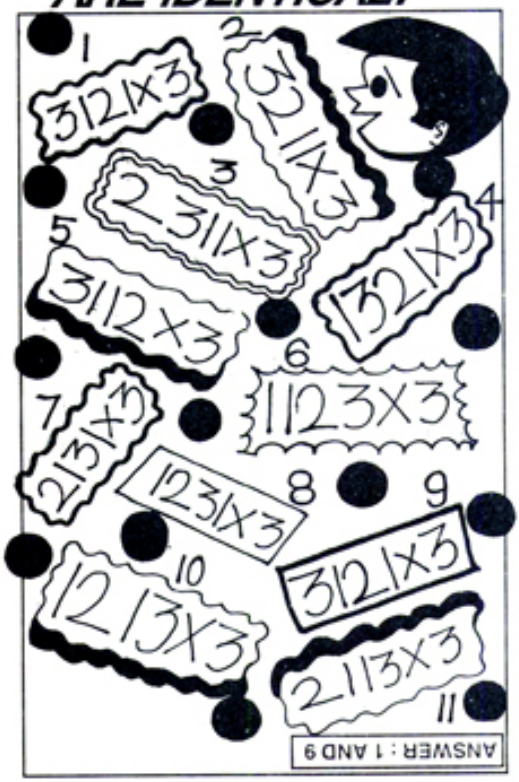


DOWN THE MEMORY TRACK

COLOUR AND KEEP

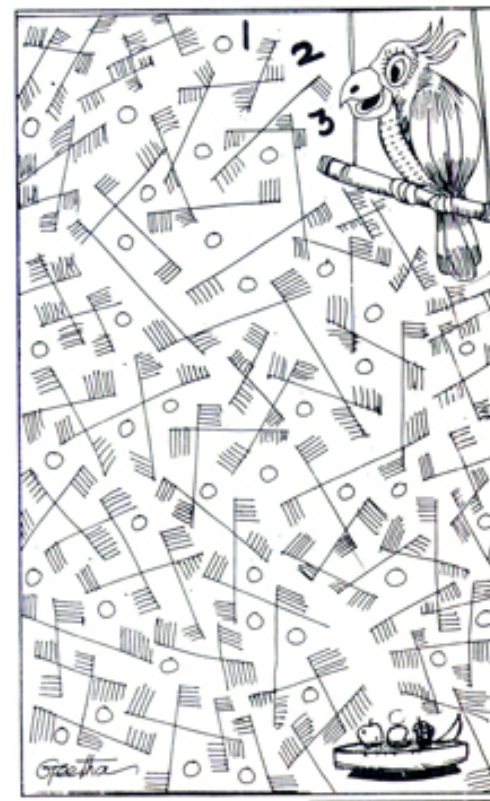


WHICH TWO SUMS ARE IDENTICAL?



ANSWER : 1 AND 9

WHICH WAY TO THE FRUITS?



ANSWER : WAY 2

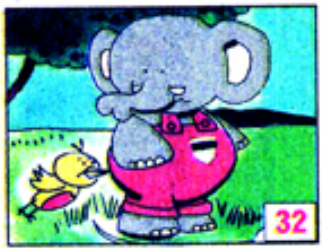
IN GOKULAM THIS MONTH

AUGUST 2002

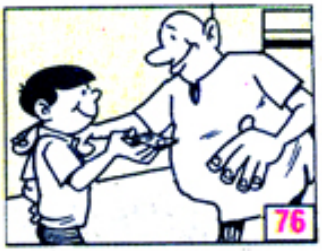
PICTURE STORIES

Thymus, Aztec and the Goddess *(contest)*

The Strange Creatures (serial)



Appu Kuku in 'Harmony'



Honesty 'Pays'

The (dis)appearing gem

The Gallows

PICTORIAL

Gorgeous and Hypnotic

GOKULAM

Vol. XV, No.2

E-mail : kalkiweekly@vsnl.com

Of all created things the loveliest,
And most divine are children.
— William Canton

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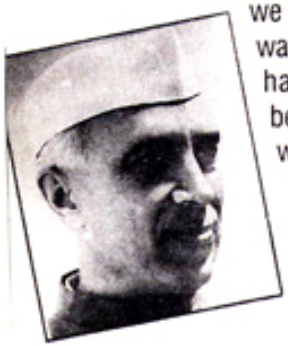
NEXT ISSUE (September) - SHORT STORY SPECIAL

PRIZE WINNING ENTRIES

GREAT MEN;

Commemorating the 55th year of Indian Independence...

One day, the Tax Superintendent of the Water Works Department called on Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru who was then the Municipal Chairman of Allahabad. The official said, "Sir, according to the rules, we have to discontinue the water supply for those who have not paid water tax before the due date. Shall we go ahead?"



"The rules are clear.

Why do you ask me?" remarked Nehru.

"Sir! Some of them are respectable citizens," replied the officer.

"So what? The rules are the same for everyone," replied Nehru and continued with his work.

The next morning Nehru's father, Motilal Nehru walked up to his son and asked for an explanation because the water supply to his house was disconnected. Motilal too had forgotten to pay the tax!

Nehru spoke very politely to his father. "It is the duty of all citizens to pay tax. There is no excuse for anyone."

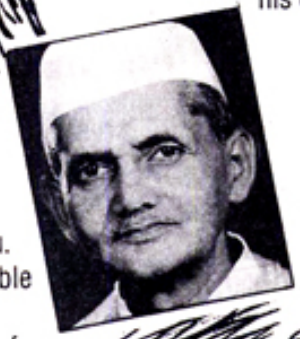
Motilal was very proud of his son.

- Devendra Dave, Std VIII,
St. Aloysius High School, Mumbai.

During his childhood, Lal Bahadur Shastri, being poor, bought all his school books with much difficulty. Every day he had to cross the River Ganges to go to school. He used to tie his books over his head and prepare himself to cross the river.

One such day, Lal Bahadur Shastri witnessed a boy drowning in the river. Not worrying about his books, he jumped immediately into the river to save the boy. When he came ashore, he found all his books were drenched and torn. Some were even missing. The zamindar whose son Shastri had saved, was a kind man. As a reward for Shastri, he undertook to pay for his entire student career.

- H.Lakshmi Lavanya,
Std. IX, Chennai.



LITTLE INCIDENTS

PRIZE : FABER-CASTELL GEOMETRY BOX

In 1928, when the Simon Commission came to India, Tanguturi Prakasam, a great leader of Andhra Pradesh, staged a 'bandh'

in front of the high court now in Chennai. When the mob became uncontrollable, a shoot out was ordered. The police began to fire. Prakasam who was then a senior lawyer in the court, faced the police without fear. He opened the top buttons of his shirt and stood right in front of the police challenging them to shoot. "Shoot me first" he cried, "shoot me before you shoot anyone of my colleagues."

It was an electrifying experience for the huge crowd that witnessed the scene that day. Towards the end of the freedom movement, Prakasam came out of prison penniless. He well and truly devoted himself to the national cause.

- C.S. Sadhana, Std. IX, Ghanna Jyothi, Chittoor.

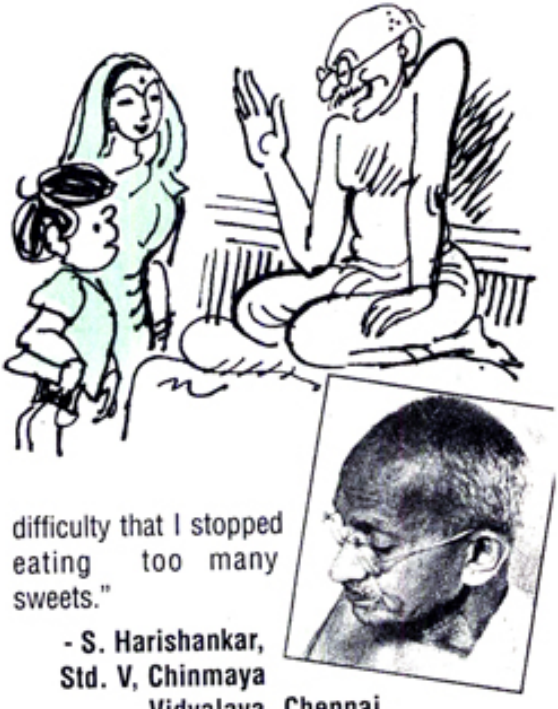
One day, a small boy and his mother came to Gandhiji. The mother said, "Bapuji! Please advise my son. He eats too many sweets and I am afraid that he might develop a sweet tooth."

Gandhiji listened and replied calmly. "Please come after three weeks."

Three weeks later the mother visited Bapuji again. Gandhiji now advised him. "My son! It is not good to eat too many sweets. They are bad for your health."

The mother was surprised. "Bapuji" she asked, "why could you not give my son this advise three weeks ago?"

"One must practice what he preaches. Three weeks ago, I too had a liking for sweets. As such, I was in no position to advise this little boy. It was after much



difficulty that I stopped eating too many sweets."

- S. Harishankar, Std. V, Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Chennai.

CHOCOLATEY FACTS

Chocolate is a paste made from pounded seeds of the cocoa.

The chocolate was first identified by spanish explorers more than 450 years ago. Cocoa beans grow in plenty in South America and the tree is known as 'Theo Broma' meaning 'food for the gods'. The Spanish explorer Cortes brought cocoa beans to Europe in 1519 after his conquest of Mexico in Central America and chocolate remained very popular among the rich and the elite for 200 years after that.

In 1771, a pound of chocolate was worth the wages of a farm worker. The Aztecs of Central Mexico noted for highly sophisticated civilization used cocoa beans as money. They offered a sackful of cocoa beans to their king instead of taxes.

Fiat's famous little car Topolino was modelled in Switzerland out of chocolate. More than 200 kgs of edible chocolate was used! In the USA, a Dutch landscape with tulips was constructed by a world class chocolate manufacturer. To commemorate the centenary of Lady Liberty, a Frenchman carved a 2.5 tonne Statue of Liberty in black chocolate. Even in the heat of New York summer this chocolate statue did not melt! The largest ever chocolate sculpture - 35 metres in length from five tons of chocolate candy - was made in San Francisco by the noted sculptor Art Grant. Later when it was pulled down, the pieces of chocolate were distributed to the poor.

It was as recent as in 1876 (just over a hundred years ago) that the modern chocolate industry was born!

- Ankita Shreeram,
Std - VII, Holy Angels HS,
Mumbai.

THE PLANT WITH A CAP

"Vegetable and pasta bake!" Krishna was quite sure what he wanted!

Gowri tagged along. "Without mushrooms, please."

"No! With mushrooms. I simply love them. They taste yummy."

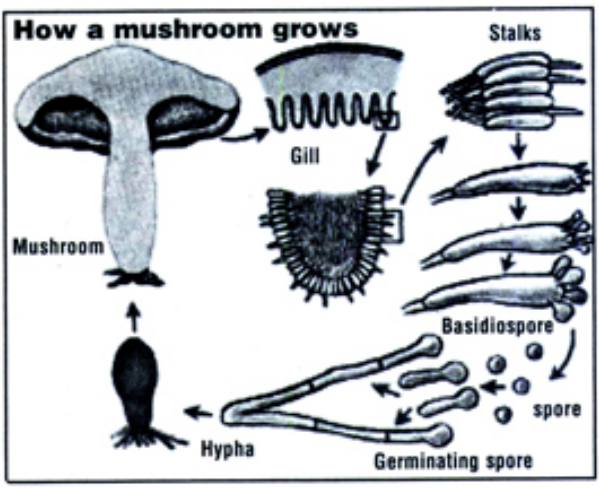
"But I am allergic to mushrooms. They cause a rash..."

"Don't you worry" interrupted the waiter at the restaurant. "One vegetable and pasta bake with mushrooms and one without! Coming up in ten minutes time..."

The bright yellow coloured sulphur mushroom, also called the shelf fungus, grows on the trunks of trees. ***(see picture on back cover)***

What do we already know about mushrooms?

Mushrooms are found in woods and in most kitchens!



Mushrooms look like umbrellas growing out of the ground!

Mushrooms taste yummy and are great delicacies, used widely in soups, baked dishes, gravies, rice and as topping on pizzas.

Many mushrooms are poisonous. These are often referred to as toadstools and cause severe allergies to some people. So, mushrooms should never be gathered by anyone who is not an expert in identifying the poisonous ones. They need to be certified as 'edible'.

★ ★ ★

What we probably also

know is that, mushrooms are among the largest of the plant group called 'fungi.' Fungi are those plants that do not have the 'green chlorophyll' in them. Mushrooms cannot make their own food and hence they feed on decayed material around them. They live on the ground and on the trunks and branches of trees. They grow only in moist places and need shade. They do not have roots.

Mushrooms have no seeds. They have tiny spores which help the plant to reproduce. These spores which fall off like dust, are carried away by the wind to a favourite, moist spot. The spores begin to swell and root-like threads appear. A button - like bulb appears on one end of the threads. This button again swells up and grows very fast pushing its way out of the ground. When the button breaks, a parasol cap with many folds on the under side (called gills) 'blooms' like magic!

★ ★ ★

But, did you know that,

- Cortinellus Shiitake is plucked from dead trees in East Asia and finds its way as a delicacy into Chinese cooking!

- The death cap is extremely poisonous but is often mistaken for a harmless variety!
- The fine dust often shaken out of mushrooms is actually its spores!
- All spores are not

white. There are yellow, brown, pink and black spores!

● One of the most beautiful mushrooms called the 'amanita' if eaten, is more poisonous and deadly than a rattle snake bite!

● Oyster mushrooms do not look like umbrellas. They look like oysters growing one on top of another!

● A morel mushroom grows only 3 to 4 inches tall! Specially priced for food, it looks some what like a sponge!

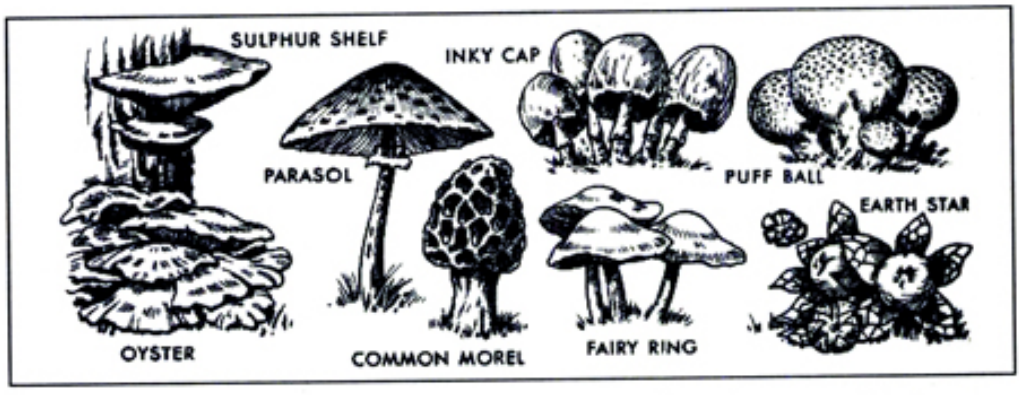
● The bright yellow coloured sulphur mushroom grows on the trunks of trees. Also called the 'shelf fungus', it steals so much food from the tree, that the tree is almost sure to die!

● The puff ball grows in pastures. These can be as small as marbles or as large as a basket ball!

● The earth star is almost full of spores when it is ripe. Known as the poor man's weather glass, it curls up when the weather is dry and straightens out again when the weather is wet!

● The inky-cap has black spores!

● Mushrooms are low in protein but rich in Vitamin B12. This helps in creating red blood cells and reducing anxiety and depression. The zinc content in mushrooms helps to overcome fatigue!



Many years ago...

● According to the Heiroglyphics of 4600 years ago, the Egyptians considered mushrooms to be the plant of immortality! The Egyptian pharaohs were enamoured by its taste and declared that mushrooms were food for the 'royal'. No common man could ever touch them! They thus ensured they had all of it!

● In many other ancient civilizations of Russia, Greece, China and Mexico, people believed mushrooms produced super-human strength! It was also believed that mushrooms had some property in them that helped to find lost objects!

● For more than 2000 years, mushrooms have been a crucial part of Chinese Traditional medicine. They have been used to stimulate the immune system rather than for treating specific diseases!

● France was the first to formally 'cultivate' mushrooms. It is believed

THE GREAT ESCAPE!

G. Srinivas, Std. VII, Vidya Niketan, Coimbatore

that Louis XIV was the first mushroom grower! During his rule, mushrooms were grown in caves near Paris.

- The gardeners of England found mushrooms to be an easy crop to grow and hence mushroom growing spread to England.
- It was only in the late 19th century that mushroom production made its way to the United States!

To share with your parents...

- **Selecting Mushrooms :** Look for mushrooms with a fresh, smooth appearance, free from major blemishes, with a dry (not dried) surface. A closed veil (the thin membrane under the cap) indicates a delicate flavour; an open veil means a richer flavour.
- **Storing Mushrooms :** Keep mushrooms refrigerated. They're best when used within a few days after purchase. Do not rinse mushrooms until ready to use. To prolong shelf life, store fresh mushrooms in a porous paper bag. Always remove plastic overlay from packaged mushrooms. Avoid air tight containers.
- **Cleaning Mushrooms :** Gently wipe mushrooms with a damp cloth or soft brush to remove occasional moss particles. Or, rinse with cold water and pat dry with paper towels.
- **Freezing Mushrooms :** Fresh mushrooms don't freeze well. But if it's really necessary to freeze them, first saute in butter or oil or in a non-stick skillet without fat; cool slightly, then freeze in an air tight container up to one month.

- 'BUD'

STORY

THE MYSTERIOUS INTRUDER

It was another of those nights. I was alone in the house and could not catch any sleep. Father was away on a tour (he was always going on tours) and mother was working still in her office (all she ever thought about was work) It was half past nine and I was in bed but as I'd said earlier, I just couldn't go to sleep.

On my bedside table was a small pencil torch, a coil of thin rope, a cup of mum's chilli powder and a penknife. I just wanted to be ready for any robber who might break in!

The clock chimed ten times. I was still wide awake when suddenly I heard a small sound outside my window. I lay absolutely still. The scraping sound came again and I froze. My teeth began to chatter and my hands began to tremble. I wanted to get up and shine the torch outside the window but I couldn't bring myself to do it. It was as if my whole body had turned into stone.

The noise came again. My heart began to beat very fast but I tried to calm myself, as I was afraid the robber would hear the beating of my heart. I decided that I had to do something. Gathering all my wits, I got up and lifted the torch. I

didn't dare switch on the bedroom light for fear that the burglar might spot me.

An owl hooted loudly shattering the night's silence; the moon came out from behind the pale grey clouds revealing the eerie looking leaves of the tree outside my window; there was the flutter of a bat's wings as it's shadow passed across the sky.

My courage failed completely. The torch clattered to the ground from my hands. I put my hands over my mouth to stop myself from screaming. The sound stopped suddenly. I was sure the burglar was planning a sudden attack.

I wished mother would return home or father would appear suddenly like a miracle. I wished one of my friends would turn up. I had hated dogs all my life but now I suddenly wished I owned one. But wishing was no use. I had to help myself.

The noise had ceased to reach my ears. A sudden hope filled my heart. Perhaps the thief had given up and gone away? Perhaps he had decided there wouldn't be anything to steal in my house?

All my hopes were shattered in a second and fear gripped my heart once more as the scraping noise started again. It was much, much louder now. Suddenly it struck me that the thief could even kill me! I folded my hands in prayer and opened my mouth but no words would come out. But thinking about god helped me and gave me fresh vigour and vitality.

I stepped to the table and picked up the knife. The noise was really loud now. I thought I saw a shadow at the window. Without stopping to think even for a moment, I went to the window and pulled back the curtains.

I screamed. I heard a squeak as I saw the tiny creature scurry out of my room and squeeze out through the gap in the hall door!

I breathed in relief as I opened the main door to let out the creature. I realised now what the scraping sound was! It had been a tiny mouse!

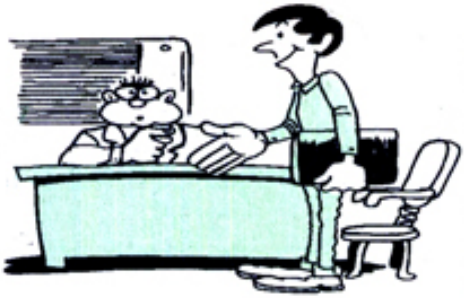
I laughed loudly at my foolishness. I turned to go back into the house when I saw the dark shape of a man. The shape was running across the garden path from just outside my window and over the gate!

I just stood there open-mouthed.

- Ankita Shreeram,
Std VII, Holy Angels HS
Mumbai.

JOKES PAGE

SMILE-A-WHILE



AT AN INTERVIEW

"For this job, we need someone who is very responsible."

"Then, that's me sir. Wherever I've worked so far, whenever something went wrong, I was responsible."

- R. Prasanna, Karur

IN COURT

Judge : What's your offence?

Victim : I was caught shopping early during the day.

Judge : That's no offence... What time was it?

Victim : Before the store opened!

- R.V.Selvakumar, Std.VII, Sainik School, Coimbatore

AT THE DENTIST'S

Gokul : A hundred rupees is too much for pulling out a single tooth. It takes you only a couple of minutes...

Dentist : No problem! For your satisfaction I shall do it in slow motion!

- S.Gayathri Davay, Std.XII, PSK Matric, Pudukkottai

IN THE CLASSROOM

Teacher : How many times did Mohammed of Ghazni invade India?

Rahul : Seventeen times.

Teacher : Very good! Can you say that in detail please?

Rahul : 1, 2, 3, ... 17!

- A. Suba, Std.IX, NIMHSS, Salem

IN THE LIVING ROOM

Father : Pradeep, why is there so much dust on our television?

Pradeep : Perhaps, its because of the car rally they are showing dad!

- Arvind Narasimhan, Mumbai

THYMUS, AZTEC AND THE GODDESS

Story : Anuradha Ramakrishnan, Std.X, Sarvodaya Vidyalaya, Trivandrum.

Illustration : Lalitha

CONTEST

Aztec, a greedy and jealous neighbour was curious to know the new found happiness of Thymus...

Tell me Thymus... I find you very happy these days...

True... Thanks to the kind goddess of the forest.

... And Thymus narrated the entire story.

The next morning Aztec posed as a woodcutter and entered the forest -

No! young man... Don't cut any more trees, please.

Sure I will not! But what will I get in return? You gave Thymus that magic bowl...!

Thymus was very poor. So I gave him the bowl. You are well-to-do. You have everything you need!

Aztec was infuriated.

Is that so? In that case, you just watch what I am going to do now...

Disappointed and enraged, Aztec decided to set fire to the trees!

What do you think happened thereafter? Use your imagination and give Anuradha's story a suitable ending. The best entry will receive a cash prize of Rs.250/-. The story will be published in the October 2002 issue of Gokulam.

RULES :

- for school going children only.
- give details of name, age, class, school and residential address.
- last date : 23.08.2002.
- mention 'picture story contest' on the envelope.
- editor's decision is final.

Ronaldo Poster on Page 40

THE MAN OF THE MOMENT

Brazil were frustrated in the first half of the world cup finals, by the superhuman goalkeeping of Kahn. When they came off at half time, 0-0, they knew it could easily have been 5-0 if a lesser man had been between the sticks. In the second half Rivaldo kicked one from outside the box more in hope than anything, and unbelievably, Kahn spills it, and in swoops the man with the yellow number nine jersey and the worst hairdo in the world.

Ronaldo has won the Golden Shoe Award(most number of goals in the tournament). He scored 7 goals, the first player to do that in a World Cup since Mexico 1974.

France 98, the final, Brazil were smashed by the home team 3-0 and Ronaldo looked like a substitute who wanted to get through his 90 minutes without making any blunders. Since then he has been written off time and again - he's past his prime, the best is over, he's low in confidence, etc. etc. etc. Its a wonderful comeback from Ronaldo. He wasn't even in the first lineup in his club team Inter Milan when he came to this World Cup. Full marks to the Brazilian coach, Luiz Felipe Scolari, for believing in him.

Ronaldo deserved every bit of the Golden Shoe Award, but don't you believe it when people tell you he won the World Cup for Brazil. He certainly won the final for Brazil, but the players who brought Brazil to the final should not be forgotten. The man who's just behind Ronaldo in the goal scoring department, Rivaldo, was absolutely magnificent. His goal against England was brilliant, and the dummy in the finals which allowed Ronaldo to score the second goal was class, not just for the quality, but also for the teamwork. However, his football skills are slightly overshadowed by his antics on the field. I have no sympathy for him. When a player fakes an injury to get a red card for his opponent, there's only one word for it - cheating.

The third R in the team, Ronaldinho, well, how can you forget him. In the game against England, one stunning assist, and the best goal of the tournament! He singlehandedly won that game for Brazil.

- ABHINAV

GOKULAM

SCHOLASTIC

GALA CONTEST

Dear children,

Last month's puzzle was too simple wasn't it? Well, this month it's fun. Go on.... But, before that, here are the answers to Gala Contest 10 and here is the list of lucky winners -

ANSWERS TO GALA CONTEST 10

1. Kamalahassan 2. Aishwarya Rai 3. Madhavan 4. Sharukh Khan 5. Sharmila Tagore 6. Savithri 7. Sivaji Ganesan 8. Sridevi

LUCKY WINNERS

1. **T.HARINI**
   Trivandrum
2. **S.KIRUBHAKAR**
   Kalpakkam
3. **K.SRINIVAS**
   Mumbai
4. **NITHILA ARIVAZHAGAN**
   Vasai Road, Maharashtra

RULES AND REGULATIONS

◆ There will be a contest every month. ◆ Four lucky winners will receive a set of books worth Rs.250/- each, from Scholastic India (P) Ltd. ◆ Fill in the form on the next page and mail it to us. ◆ Strictly for school going children. ◆ Any number of entries can be sent by you, but no photocopies. ◆ All details asked for in the form must be filled in. Entries without complete details will be rejected. ◆ Use a ball point pen to write. Write neatly and clearly. ◆ The person with an 'all-correct' entry is the winner. If there are more than one 'all-correct' entries, then the lucky winner/s will be decided by a draw of lot, from out of the all correct entries. ◆ The books will be sent to you direct by Scholastic India (Pvt) Ltd. Their decision with the choice of books is final. ◆ The last date for receiving entries for each contest will be mentioned in the entry form.

GOKULAM - SCHOLASTIC

GALA CONTEST - 11

ENTRY FORM

Last Date : 12.08.2002

Name : .....

Age : ..... Class: .....

School : .....

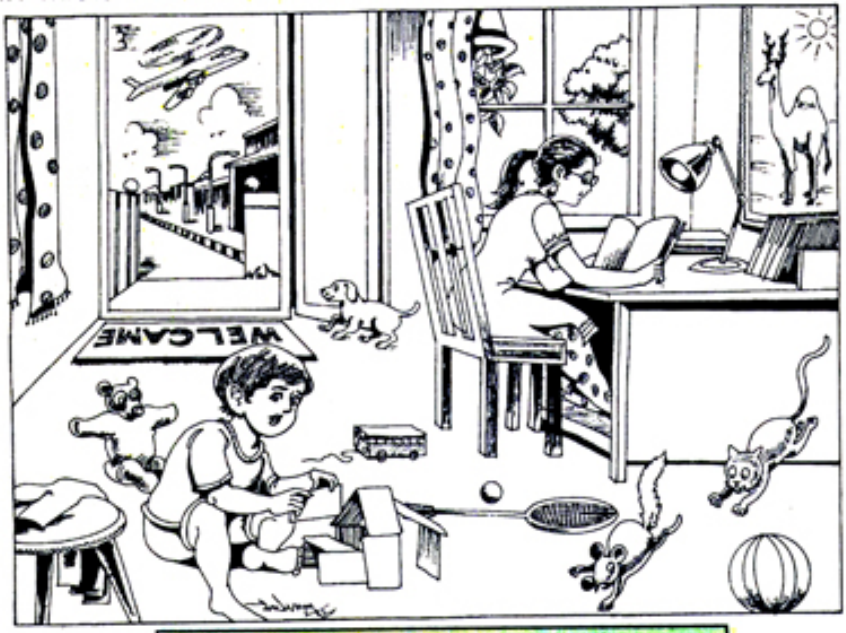
Residential : .....

Address .....

..... Pin : .....

Signature : .....

The picture below has many mistakes. Spot six of them and draw a circle around those. But, there's a catch! We have made our list of six mistakes. ***Your answers must match ours.*** *Good luck!*



Mail to :

Editor,
Gokulam (English),
47, Jawaharlal Nehru Road,
Ekkaduthangal, CHENNAI - 600 097.

IN THE COMPANY OF ELDERS

The exams had just got over. The holidays had started, and all the children were thrilled. No more drudgery over books, no school for two whole weeks.

But Seema was very depressed. The reason for her misery was that her parents had told her they would not be going anywhere that hols.

It was a very commonplace incident which soon changed the scenario for Seema. On the third day of her holidays, her mother asked her to run an errand for her. She had to carry a package to Sumathy auntie, mummy's friend who worked as the manager of an old people's home in the next lane.

Sumathy auntie welcomed her cheerfully. "So, Seema, where are you going for your holidays?" she asked. "No where!" burst out Seema sobbing. Her pent-up frustration found an outlet as the whole story poured out - how all her friends were off to wonderful places while she alone was stuck at home.

Sumathy auntie listened quietly. They sat in silence for a few minutes. Then, "Why don't you come in and meet our inmates?" suggested Sumathy auntie. For want of anything better to do, Seema agreed.

It was a small Home with just twenty inmates - all elderly people without families or whose

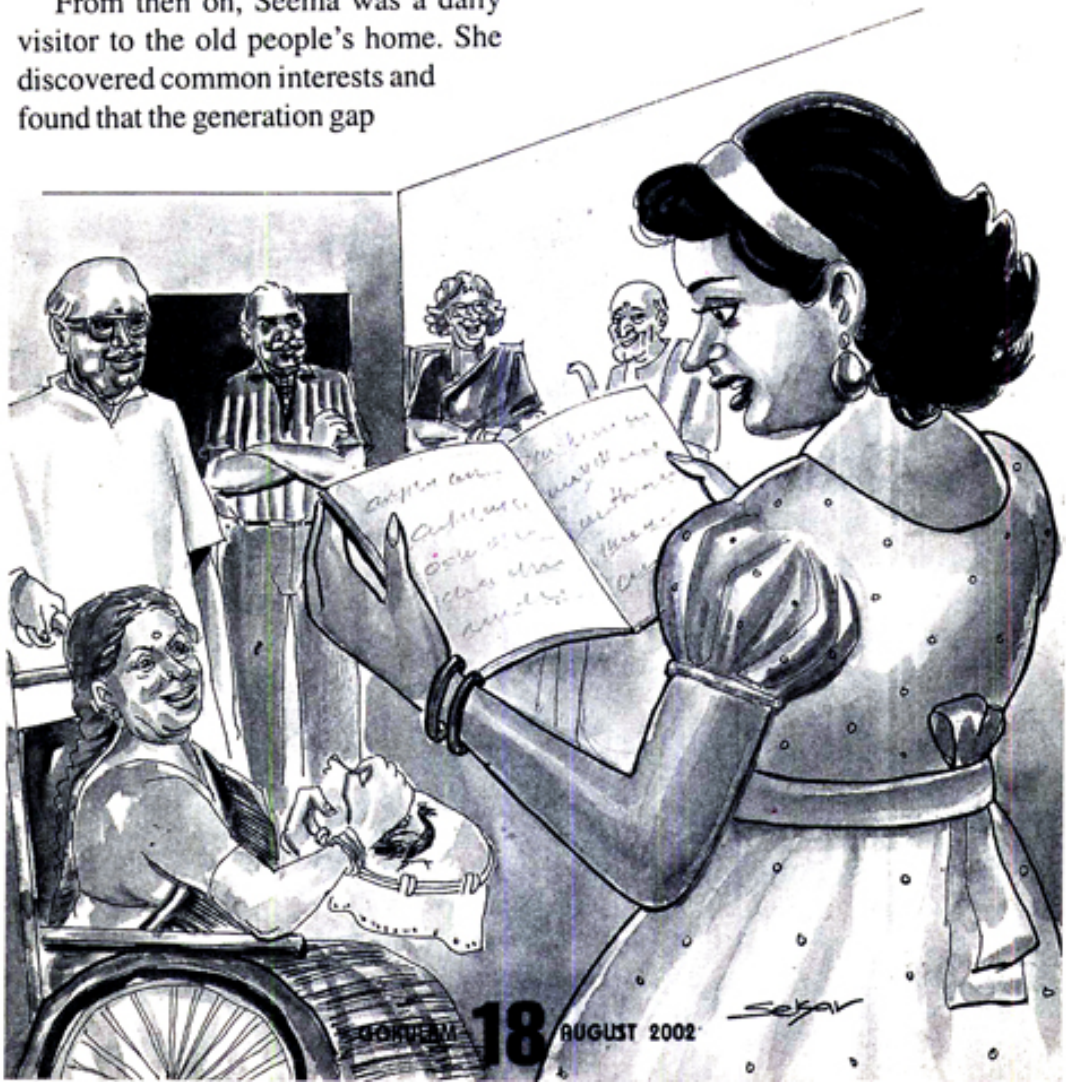
children were abroad and unable to look after them. They were all well-to-do and the Home provided them with all the comforts. The only thing they lacked, perhaps, was the company of their families. However, they were all cheerful and seemed to maintain a positive attitude to life.

Seema was greeted with great cheer and welcomed into the group as a friend. There was much joking, teasing and laughter and the time just flew past. The 'ten minute visit' stretched into two hours, and Seema felt reluctant to leave.

From then on, Seema was a daily visitor to the old people's home. She discovered common interests and found that the generation gap practically did not exist. She could talk to them as she could to a friend; they listened and they understood her.

Apart from conversations there were numerous other things to be done. She spent hours reading out books to those who loved to read but whose eyes couldn't stand the strain; she helped out others with their hobbies.

Seema became so busy that she had no time to brood. Soon an exhibition was coming up and the Home authorities decided to take a stall there to exhibit and sell the works of their



inmates. Paintings, items of clothing and furniture, all were to be displayed. Everyone was fired by the zeal to make it a success. Seema, with all the enthusiasm of youth, was especially so. She ran around helping her friends in making the items and setting up the stall and was the moving spirit behind the show. The exhibition was a great success and Seema won plaudits from Sumathy auntie and the inmates for her creativity and enthusiasm.

Seema's personality flowered. Reading aloud to her elderly friends introduced her to the wonderful world of books. Colonel Bhaskar showed her many mathematical tricks which made her fall in love with the subject. Mrs. Menon taught her knitting and crochet. She developed a positive attitude to life.

All too soon, the holidays were over and it was time to go back to school. Seema took leave of the inmates of the old people's home, promising to meet them at weekends and whenever she got some free time.

In class, her class teacher announced an essay competition on 'How I spent my holidays.' The best entry would win a cash prize. Seema's account of her activities at the old people's home won her the prize, and she dashed to share the good news with her friends.

- Rajee Raman
Chennai.

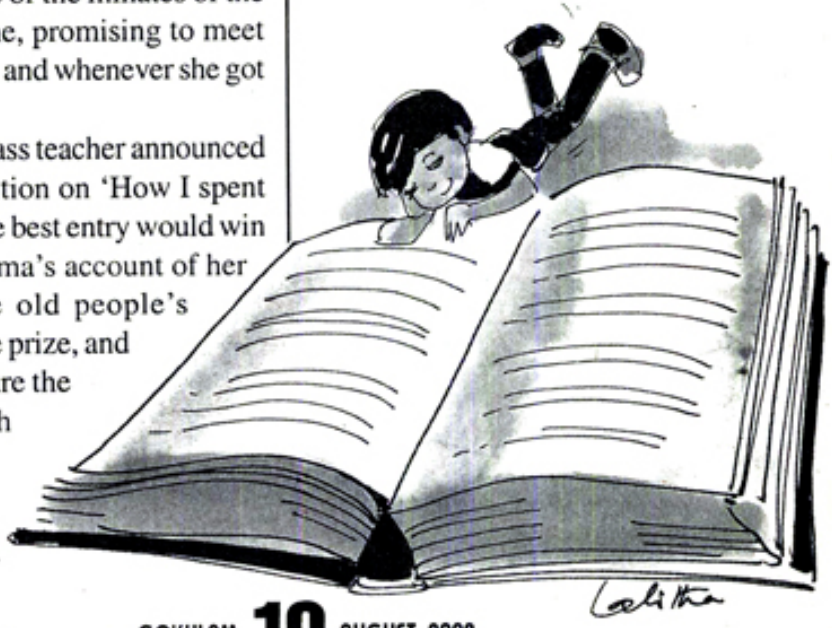
QUOTABLE QUOTATIONS

- We can do anything we want to do if we stick to it long enough.
- Good health and good sense are two of life's greatest blessings.
- The shortest way to do many things is to do only one thing at a time.
- He lacks everything who thinks he lacks nothing.
- It is better to understand a little than to misunderstand a lot.

- Nishikant Dash, Std. XI ,
K.V. Koliwada, Mumbai,

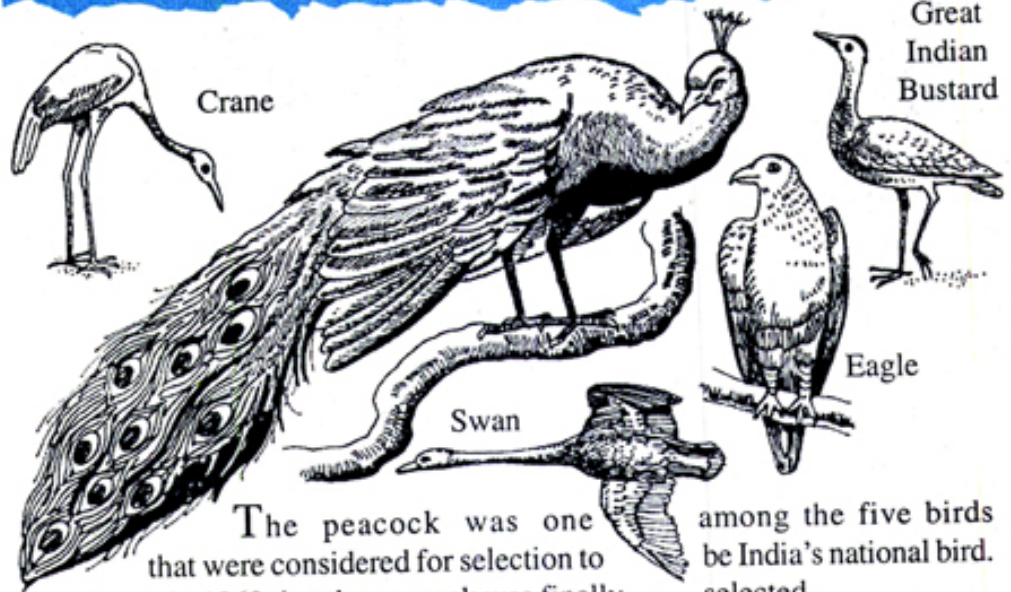
- When everything is lost, remember, the future remains.
- The only man who never makes a mistake is a man who never does anything.
- If man will not put an end to war, war will put an end to man kind.
- It is better to die on your feet than to live on your knees.

- Vinaypal Singh, Std. VIII A, Delhi Public School, Chattisgarh.



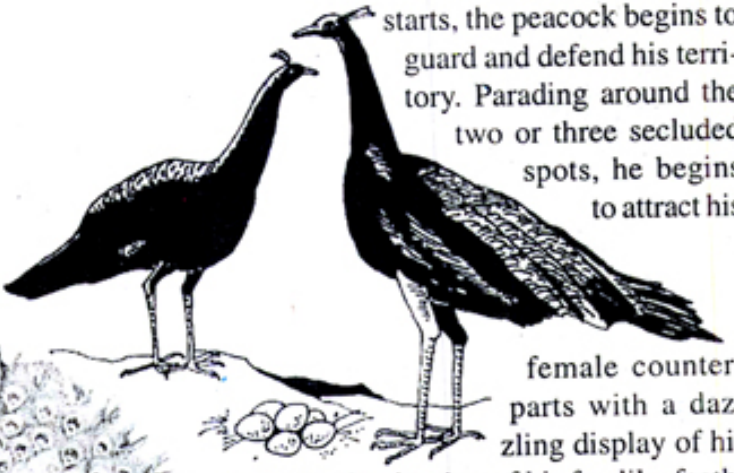
GORGEOUS and HYPNOTIC

AAZHI

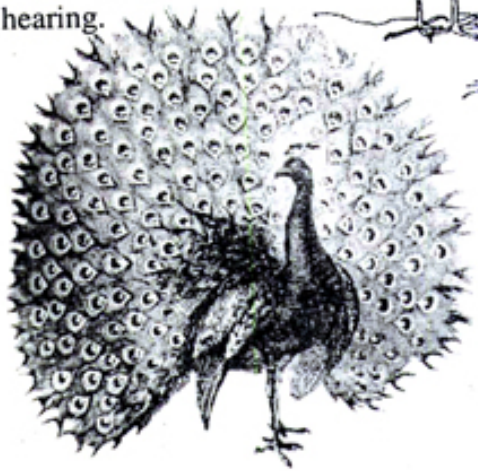


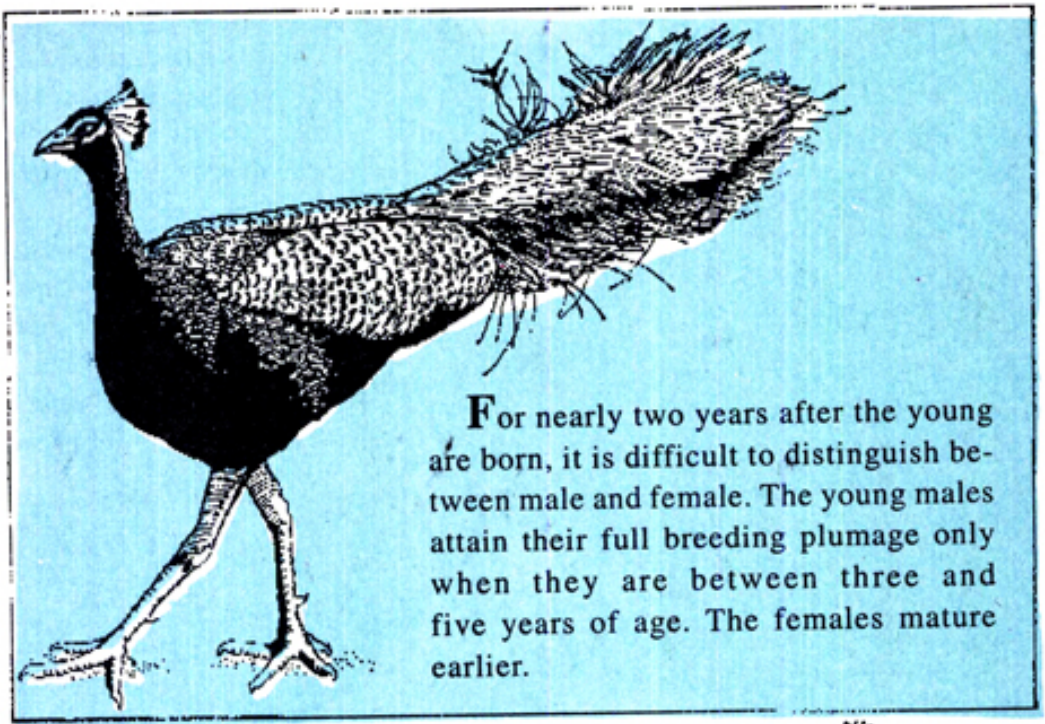
The peacock was one among the five birds that were considered for selection to be India's national bird. It was in 1963 that the peacock was finally selected.

This familiar game bird is found largely in the lush rain water jungles of India and Srilanka. Although extremely shy, it is always on the alert, being well supported with excellent sight and hearing.



When the mating season starts, the peacock begins to guard and defend his territory. Parading around the two or three secluded spots, he begins to attract his female counterparts with a dazzling display of his wings and quivering of his fan like feathers. Eventually the peacock attracts the company of about four peahens. Each peahen then lays about four to six dull coloured eggs in a shallow scrape in the ground amidst grassy undergrowth. The peahens take turns to incubate the eggs. The eggs hatch after 28 days.

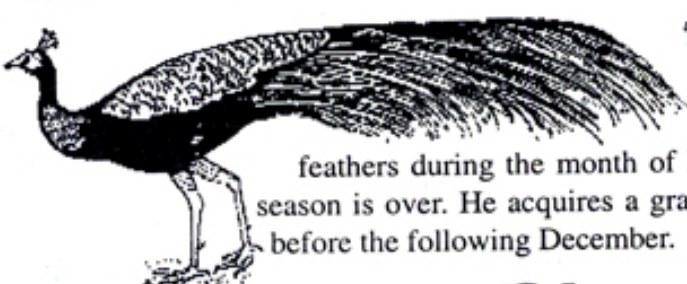




For nearly two years after the young are born, it is difficult to distinguish between male and female. The young males attain their full breeding plumage only when they are between three and five years of age. The females mature earlier.

The coronet of feathers on the peacock's head looks grand and majestic. Sadly though, its growth is a painful torture, sometimes leading to the death of the bird.

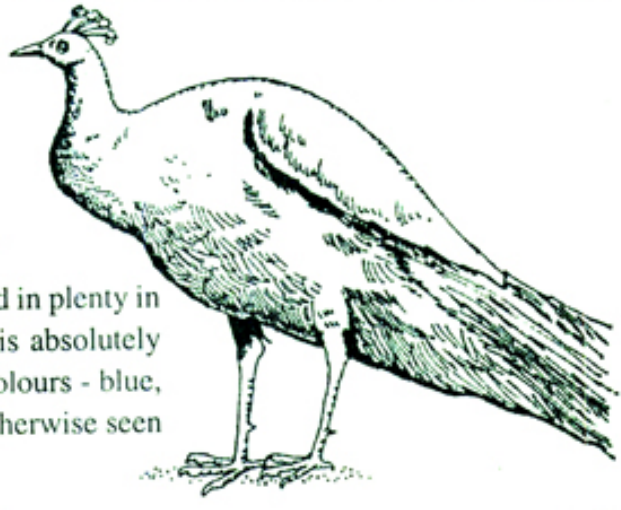
Even while strutting majestically back and forth, the peacock suddenly closes his fanned tail, raises his long neck and lets out a harsh, shrill scream. It is a warning of danger - the sight or suspicion of a tiger or such predators.



The peacock sheds his damaged, aged and torn feathers during the month of May or when the breeding season is over. He acquires a grand beautiful, new plumage before the following December.

This bird is extremely scared of tigers. He simply freezes in front of one when he sees him approaching. He doesn't know what to do. Thus he falls easy prey to the big cat. That is why even men who want to snare a peacock, 'dress' themselves up to resemble a tiger!

The story goes that King Alexander of Greece, who invaded India in 327 B.C. was deeply attracted by these beautiful birds. So, if these birds are spotted in certain parts of Europe today, it is because Alexander took back to his country in 325 B.C., a few of them!



The white peacock is found in plenty in the country of Burma. There is absolutely no trace of any of the bright colours - blue, green, yellow, red or black- otherwise seen in a normal peacock.

The 'Congo peacock' was first discovered by Dr. James Choppin in the country of Congo, Africa. Although researchers feel that this bird is related to the 'Indian peacock', it might be just another, 'fowl'. For, peacocks it is believed, are exclusive to Asia!

PENPALS

Hi!

Name : **N.Vinodhini**
Age : 13
Address : 8/11, Annamalai Street, Bharathipuram, Chrompet, Chennai - 600 044.
Hobbies : Reading novels and comics, watching T.V., drawing, travelling, cycling, etc..

Name : **Asha Sunil**
Age : 14
Address : 2nd Floor, A Block, Geetanjali Apts., Sashtri Road, Thillainagar, Trichy - 18
Hobbies : Singing, stamp collection, coin collection and painting.

Name : **I. Praneet**
Age : 10
Address : 15-8-417/1, Feelkhana, Begum Bazar, Hyderabad - 500 012.
Hobbies : Drawing, reading, watching cartoons on T.V.

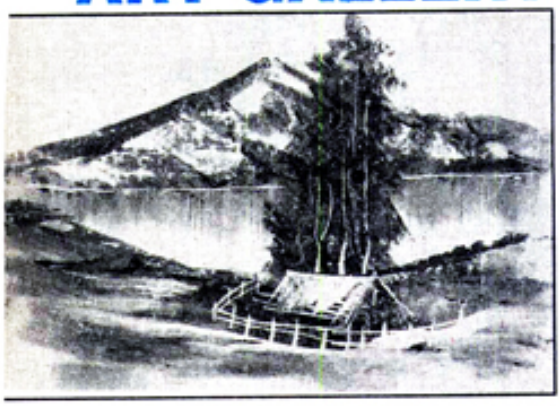
Name : **H.Joshitha**
Age : 13
Address : 1st Floor, 26-A, Saradha College Road, Anna Nagar, Salem - 636 007.
Hobbies : Drawing, painting, gardening, collecting stamps, collecting pictures and coins (ancient), listening to music and admiring nature.

Name : **M. Akhila Bhat**
Age : 12
Address : P27, Princep Street, Kolkatta - 700 072.
Hobbies : Reading, collecting stamps and stickers, dancing, drawing, watching T.V., listening to jokes and learning tonguetwisters.

Name : **R.Abhilasha**
Age : 14
Address : 6-1-132/62, Flat 102, Adarsh Apartments, Padmarao Nagar, Secunderabad - 500 061.
Hobbies : Reading, drawing, listening to music, making friends and surfing the net.

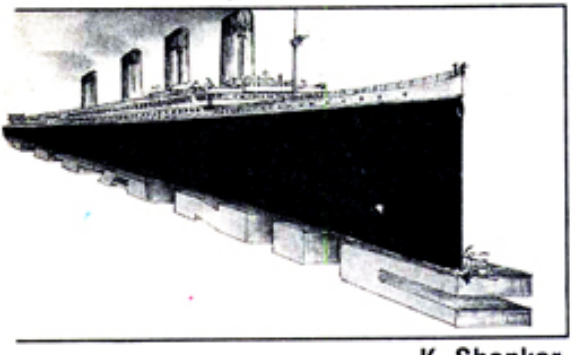
Name : **S.Kalyana Sundaram**
Age : 12
Address : Meenakshi Illam, 165

ART GALLERY



R. Vinodkumar, Std.IX, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Sulur, Coimbatore.

S. Manjunath, Std.X, Sarvodaya High School, Bangalore.



K. Shankar, Age 18, Visakhapatnam.

Marapalam Road, 1st Street, K.A.S. Nagar, Karungalpalayam, Erode - 3.

Hobbies : Reading books, watching T.V., writing essays and stories, playing cricket and video games.

Name : **M. Sharmila**

Age : 14

Address : New No.35, Old No.54, Basuvaian Street, Old Washermenpet, Chennai - 600 021.

Hobbies : Watching T.V., drawing, painting, singing, dancing, reading story books and collecting stamps.

Name : **N. Abinav Kumar**

Age : 12

Address : Flat No. 1, Plot No. 13, 'Vikram Arcade', Sector C-5, Town Centre, Cidco, N-1, Aurangabad-431 003, Maharashtra.

Hobbies : Reading, writing poems, music and playing cricket.

Name : **Krutika Ravi**

Age : 14

Address : 683/21C, Faridabad, Haryana - 121 001.

Hobbies : Singing, dancing, working on the internet.

Name : **S. Sajith**

Age : 10

Address : Safith Saraswathi Nivas, Kunduvan Padam (P.O.), Palakkad (Dist), Kerala- 678 641

Hobbies : Reading Gokulam, playing games and drawing.

SEETUK AND MILUKKATTAK COME ON-LINE!

"We asked an American net-friend to help us contact some children from the Eskimo Land. We want to know more about your lifestyle."

Anil and Sheela: Hello Seetuk, Milukkattak!! You have come on-line promptly!

Seetuk and Milukkattak : Hello Anil and Sheela! You're

from India! How did you get our e-mail IDs?

A,S : We asked an American net-friend to help us contact some children from the Eskimo Land. We want to know more about your lifestyle.

S,M: Sure! We got this facility in our school only recently and we are happy to have picked up so many friends already!

* Summer is beautiful; still cold

A,S : Amazing how technology has advanced!

S,M : True. Our forefathers led a very different kind of life. We've heard that from our parents...

A,S : Tell us all about it.

S,M : People in those days lived a wandering life. They lived near the sea shore during the long winter because the seas were the main source of food. They stored away extra meat in deep pits inside the frozen grounds. This storage place was called 'cache'. Their houses were made of whale bones, drift wood or skins of animals.

A,S : Surely, things must have changed for you eskimos now.

S,M : You bet! Only now, in the past decade or two we seem to have found a 'new' way of living. We'll tell you.

Ours is a village on the North Western Arctic coast of Alaska and the only way in and out of our village is by bush plane. Of course there are also Eskimos on the northeast tip of Siberia in Russia, Canada and Greenland, but each have a distinct name like Inuit, Inupiat, Sugpiaq, Yuit or Yupik. Calling us all by the imposed name "Eskimos" meaning "eaters of raw meat" is not generally relished by us!

* feels warm inside the parka

A,S: Oops! We are sorry if we have offended you. Don't you have any roads?

S,M: No! No! No roads or railways! Also only bigger villages and towns have schools. Children from remote villages come here and stay together in buildings away from their parents all through the year and go home only for vacation.

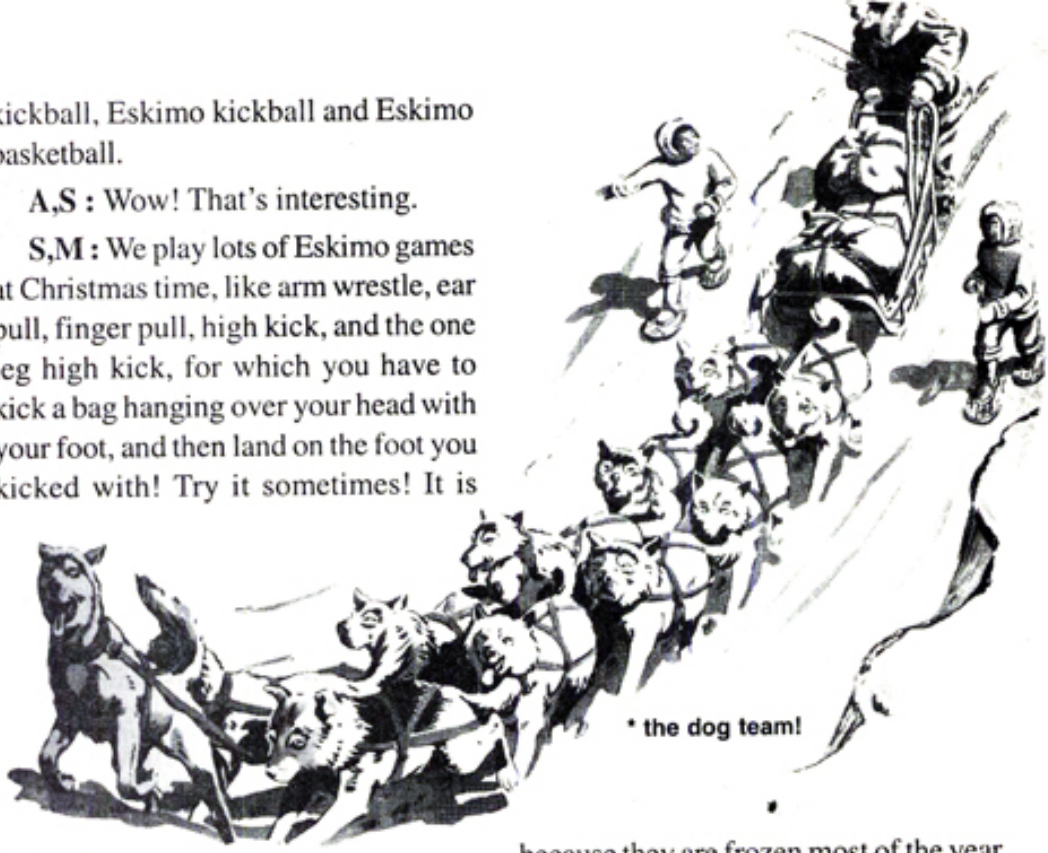
A,S: What do you learn in school?

S,M: We learn Math, art, painting, social studies and two languages. School is fun though many of us don't study beyond High School. After school, we play basketball, football,

kickball, Eskimo kickball and Eskimo basketball.

A,S : Wow! That's interesting.

S,M : We play lots of Eskimo games at Christmas time, like arm wrestle, ear pull, finger pull, high kick, and the one leg high kick, for which you have to kick a bag hanging over your head with your foot, and then land on the foot you kicked with! Try it sometimes! It is difficult, but you can do it.



* the dog team!

A,S : We'd surely break our bones!

S,M : In summer at the whale feast, we play a game called blanket toss. We have a small in-door swimming pool in our school which is only 4 feet deep. We have fun swimming there. Of course we cannot swim in the sea or rivers because they are frozen most of the year and even in summer the water is very cold.

* making a 'kayak'

A,S : What about games on the comptuer?

S,M : We play a lot of computer games like Crystal Caves, Outrun or GI JOE.

We also participate in fishing and hunting of seals, walruses and whales. We have cats and husky dogs as pets. Some of us use the dogs for our dog teams to draw the sled. But nowadays snowmobiles are the most used vehicles.

A,S: Do you go out on your own or only accompanied by your parents?

S,M: We go on our own to the only shop in our village to buy vegetables or

* Outside our school with our pets

Eskimo games and dances and stay late. Of course it is very cold during Christmas and it snows heavily. It is dark throughout as the sun doesn't rise at all. Except for a few months each year, we mostly live by the light of stars and the moon.

sweetmeats. While going hunting, we go with our parents. And we hunt only for food or other use, not for fun. Older boys go fishing on their own in specially made crafts called Kayaks. It is not safe to go very far all alone because of wild animals like arctic foxes and polar bears. Sometimes the weather is really bad, when chill winds drive the temperature down to -85 degrees.

A,S: And we sweat it out here. But do you feel uncomfortably cold in your Igloo homes made of ice?

S,M: Actually most of us now live in modern houses made of wood and metal sliding. We call any dwelling an igloo. We have television in our homes and love to watch cartoons!

A,S: We love that too! How do you celebrate your festivals?

S,M: During Halloween we trick or treat and munch down! We also have a Halloween carnival in our school gym. It is real fun. For Christmas, the whole village comes to the gym to celebrate in a feast. We share muktuk (whale blubber with the skin attached) and whale meat. After eating, we have

A,S: How do you dress to school?

S,M: We dress just like you, in jeans, T-shirts etc inside. We then cover ourselves with parkas, ski pants, boots or mukluks, beaver hats and fur gloves. Our parkas have fur ruffs so our faces stay warm.

A,S : We would like to see your photographs. Why don't you mail us some pictures of yourself, your family and your land? We could share it with our friends here.

S,M : Sure! We too have a lot of questions to ask you about your lifestyle. Shall we chat again next week and it will be our turn to question you!

A,S: Certainly. We'll come on-line same day, same time, next week. Bye till then.

S,M: Bye, Bye!

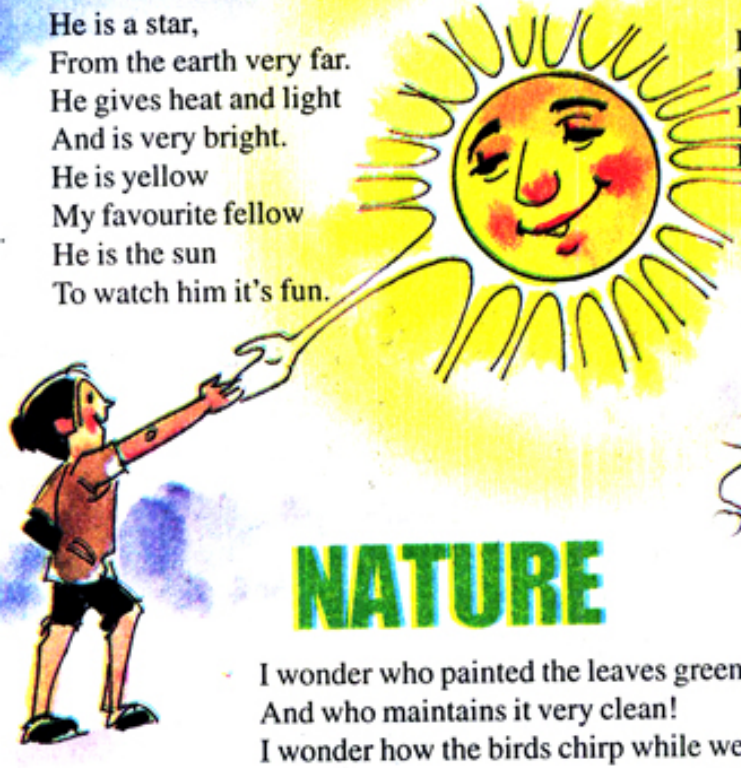
- Radhika Sasankh

Next issue :
Indonesian Children

POEMS

THE SUN

He is a star,
From the earth very far.
He gives heat and light
And is very bright.
He is yellow
My favourite fellow
He is the sun
To watch him it's fun.



THE MOON

Its colour is white,
It gives light at night.
Its spherical in shape
Is it stuck to the
sky with a tape?

NATURE

I wonder who painted the leaves green
And who maintains it very clean!
I wonder how the birds chirp while we
talk
And how they can fly while we walk.
High hills, deep valleys and great
oceans,
I wonder at all these creations.

- Sindhu, Std. V, Sri Kumarans Public School, Bangalore.

VIEWPOINT

JUNK FOOD

Junk food sold on the roadside is the main cause for many diseases. The various brands of cool drinks particularly the aerated ones are equally dangerous for they contain carbon -di - oxide. It is always good to have fresh fruit juices and milk shakes made at home. They are not only safe but also nutritious.

- Archana Natarajan, Std X, Kerala Samajam Model school, Jamshedpur.

LAUGHTER

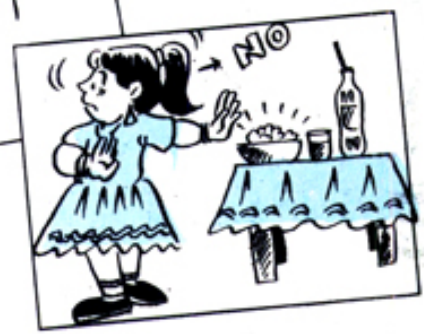
We are all aware of the saying 'laughter is the best medicine'. Laughter always does good to the person engaged in it. It fills the person with joy and happiness. It helps to reduce tensions and stress and enables one to be cool and calm. Thus laughter helps to keep ourselves healthy and fit. So why not 'keep smiling as it costs nothing'?

- Manjari Ajay Awte, Std. VIII, Delhi Public School, Korba.

BEGGARY

Beggary is a great social evil. Beggars are found begging almost everywhere- in temples, outside departmental stores, near public places and even at traffic signals.

Begging has become a stigma in our society. In big cities there is often a network of beggars and also a Beggar's Association! They have their own leaders and financiers who exploit the beggars for their own benefit. These leaders force them to beg and take away from them their 'earning' for the day. Most often, these Associations also kidnap children and force them to join their begging gang. Such people are the worst enemies to any society.



- Minakshi Raj, Std VIII, Blessed Sacrement H.S., Puri.

Dear Minakshi,

Please send us your residential address.

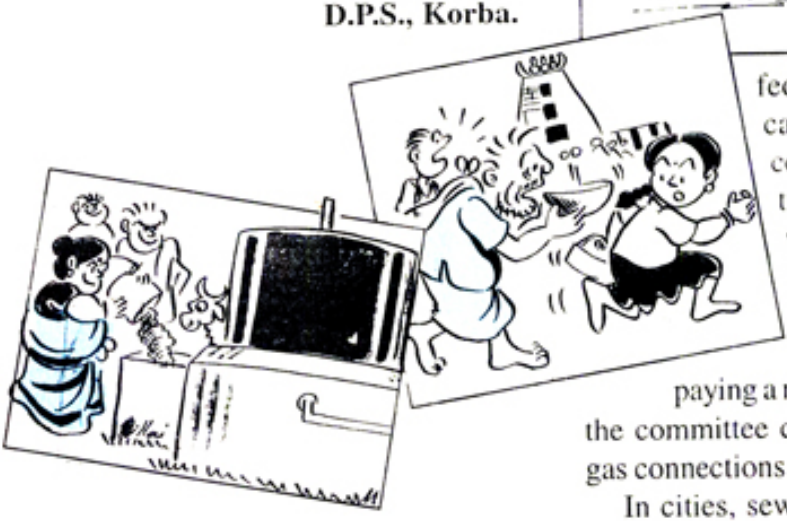
- Editor

WORK

The phrase 'work is worship' means 'working well is working for God'. God loves people who work hard. God himself is always busy 'creating'. Work is service to mankind. True worshippers of God are those who take delight in bringing happiness to mankind through their work. An idle man's brain is a devil's workshop. Only meaningful and fruitful work helps man to progress in life.

It is very important for us, as children, to understand the above truth and develop a serious work attitude from a very young age.

- Reeti Mahobe, Std. VII,
D.P.S., Korba.



ENERGY

With increasing dependence on fossil fuels, one of the major problems that our country faces today is energy crisis.

India has a cheap and efficient solution to this problem - Bio-Gas. It is estimated that bio-gas along with sewage gas can meet about 45% to 55% of our total energy needs.

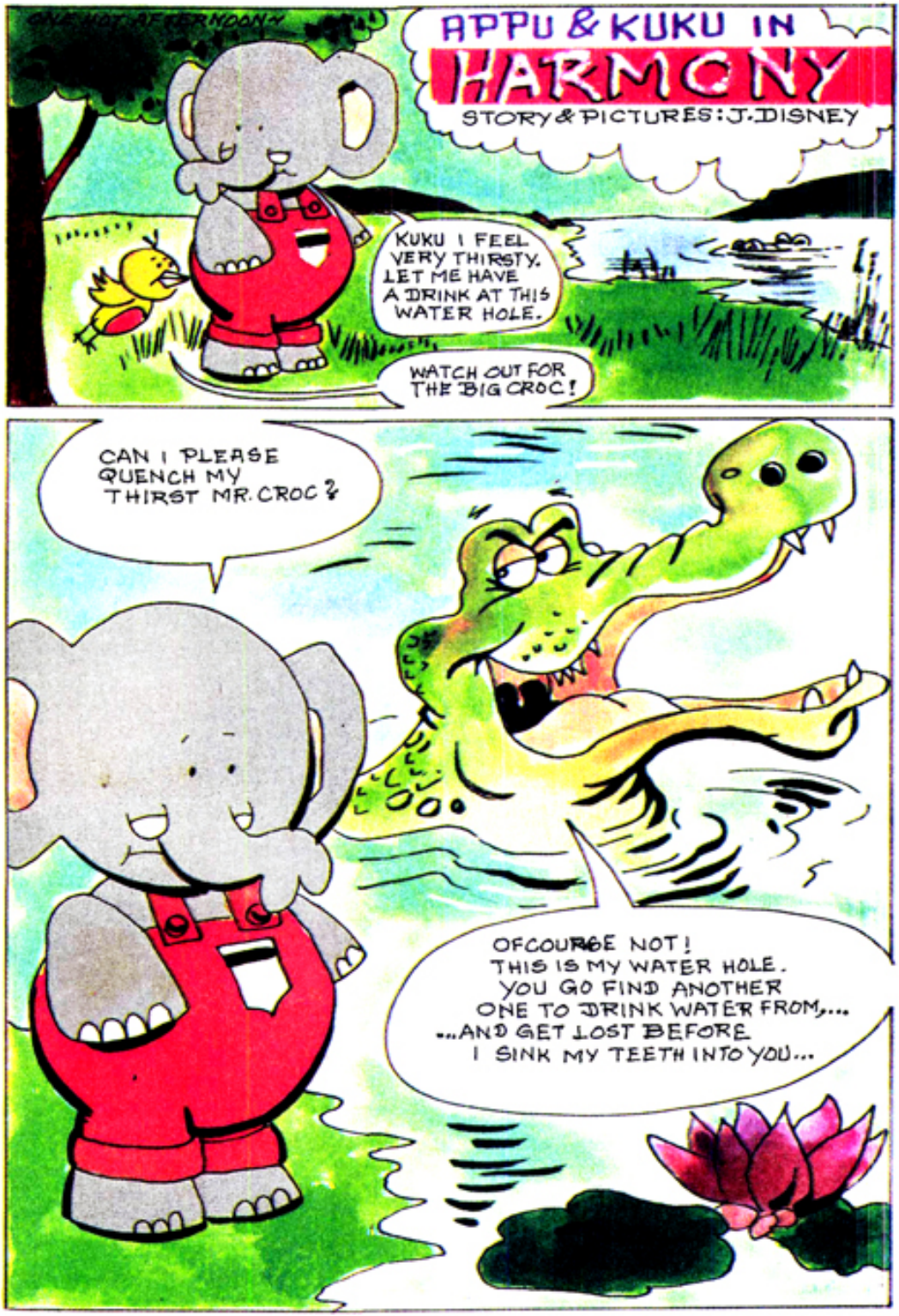
India is an agricultural country and has the largest population of cattle in the world. Everyday, millions of tonnes of 'gobar' is obtained from both domestic and stray cattle.

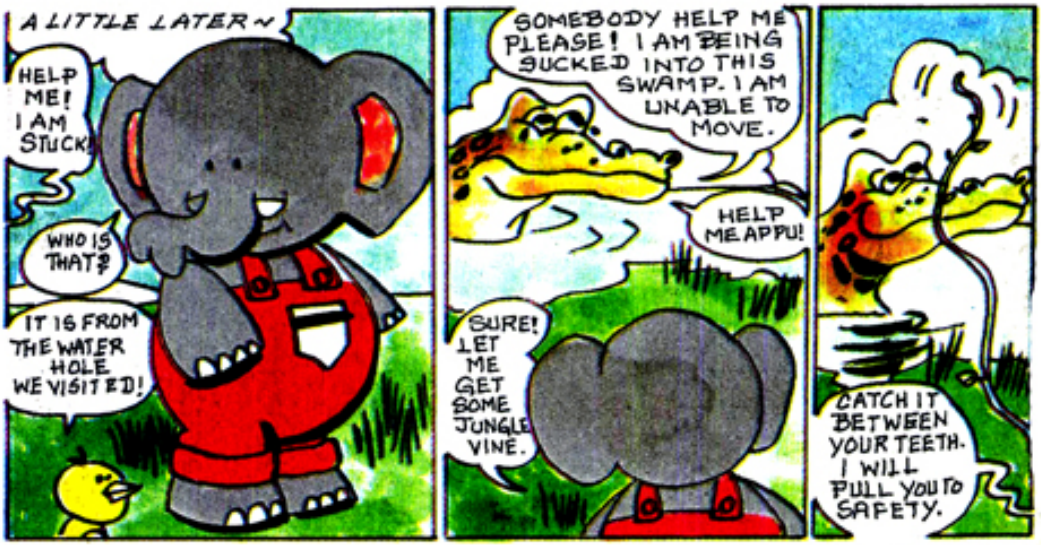
All the residents of a particular village can collect money and set up a huge bio-gas plant. This plant can be

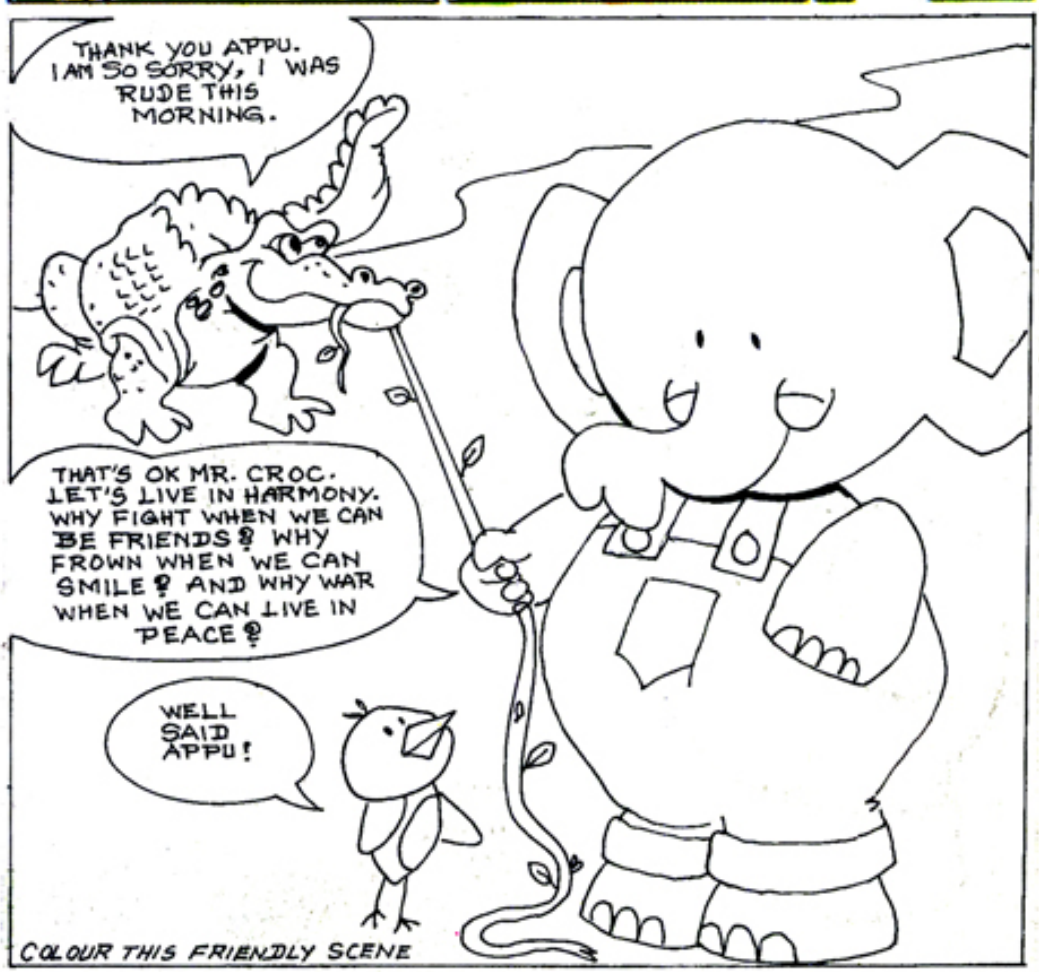
fed by the dung of the cattle in the village. A committee can be set up to supervise the working of the plant. The dung can be collected by the committee after paying a nominal amount. Then, the committee can in turn charge for gas connections and manure supply.

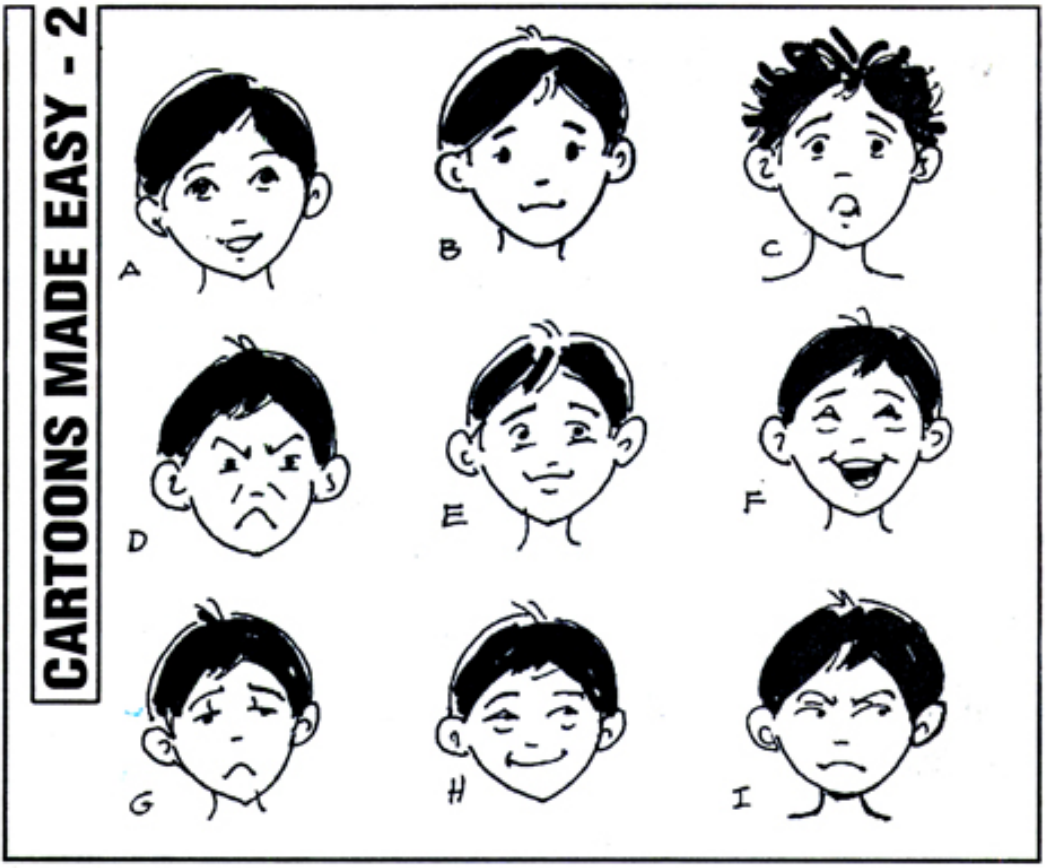
In cities, sewage plants can be set up. All the drains must be linked to the main plant. Sewage gas can then be produced and the somewhat purified water can be purified further and reused though not for cooking and quenching one's thirst.

- Siddharth Sahoo, Std.X,
Sacred Heart Convent,
Sri Ganga Nagar, Rajasthan.


ONE HOT AFTERNOON
APPU & KUKU IN
HARMONY
STORY & PICTURES: J. DISNEY
KUKU I FEEL VERY THIRSTY. LET ME HAVE A DRINK AT THIS WATER HOLE.
WATCH OUT FOR THE BIG CROC!
CAN I PLEASE QUENCH MY THIRST MR. CROC?
OFCOURSE NOT! THIS IS MY WATER HOLE. YOU GO FIND ANOTHER ONE TO DRINK WATER FROM,... ...AND GET LOST BEFORE I SINK MY TEETH INTO YOU...


A LITTLE LATER ~
HELP ME! I AM STUCK!
WHO IS THAT?
IT IS FROM THE WATER HOLE WE VISITED!
SOMEBODY HELP ME PLEASE! I AM BEING SUCKED INTO THIS SWAMP. I AM UNABLE TO MOVE.
HELP ME APPU!
SURE! LET ME GET SOME JUNGLE VINE.
CATCH IT BETWEEN YOUR TEETH. I WILL PULL YOU TO SAFETY.


THANK YOU APPU. I AM SO SORRY, I WAS RUDE THIS MORNING.
THAT'S OK MR. CROC. LET'S LIVE IN HARMONY. WHY FIGHT WHEN WE CAN BE FRIENDS? WHY FROWN WHEN WE CAN SMILE? AND WHY WAR WHEN WE CAN LIVE IN PEACE?
WELL SAID APPU!
COLOUR THIS FRIENDLY SCENE



HI KIDS!

This month, shall we try drawing faces in cartoon style?

You can see how from a normal face, a cartoon version may be created **(pictures A and B).**

Picture C : Almost all the strokes are curved upward. The expression of fear is conveyed.

Picture D : The brows are curved like an 'S'. Eyes are narrowed. The addition of cheeklines and an upward curved lip, show anger.

Picture E : Eyes are wide open - Raised eyebrows and a smile show surprise. Between pictures C and E there is only one change in the face - the mouth.

Picture F : Raised eyebrows - narrowed eyes - and an open mouth show laughter.

Picture G : All lines drooping downward, and constricted eyebrows indicate sorrow.

While **picture H**, suggests cheekiness, **picture I** indicates an evil nature.

By subtle variations of the eyes, eyebrows, mouth and cheeks, you'll be able to capture many more expressions.

Best of Luck.

- Lalitha Aunty

• RADHA PADMANABHAN

SERIAL

A HOLIDAY ADVENTURE

4. IN THE COVE

The mornings were always reserved for play on the beach. The sun in Goa took a while to really rise, the soft light lingered longer than on the east coast and besides the children could have their morning bath after their dip in the sea. So after brushing their teeth and gulping down a glass of milk, they ran to the beach. But that morning the children did not go to the shore. Instead, they made a bee line for the cliff.

Vinaya looked around to see if the man was anywhere about. But he wasn't. They started to climb the cliff. As they climbed, Kamala started singing:

"The bears went over the mountain, the bears went over the mountain

The bears went over the mountain to see what they could see..."

The others joined in.

"And what do you think they saw and what do you think they saw?"

They stopped not wanting to sing "the other side of the mountain."

But Kamala, who was as good at rhyming as well as singing, sang loud and clear:

"By Jove the cove of the mountain, by Jove the cove of the mountain

By Jove the cove of the mountain is what the bears did see."

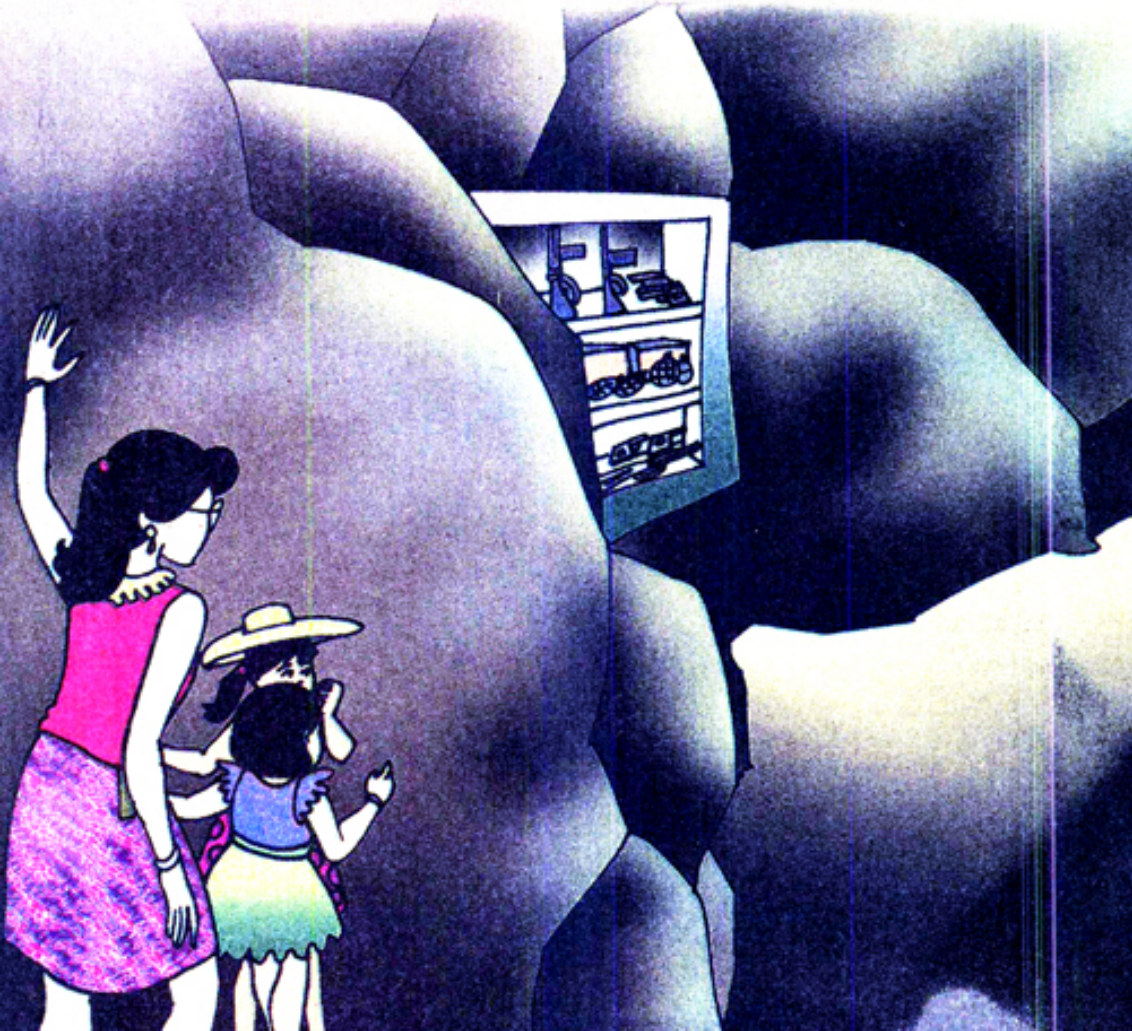
As they started to climb, it was Kamala who led the way. She was a very

observant child and seemed to remember the path and the way to get to the top of the cliff.

"Careful, Leela , Leela!," shouted Kamala. "Don't forget the bush with the red ants. Remember I was bitten last time?" But the warning came a little too late. Leela held the branches of the bush to climb higher and was soon covered with red ants. She screamed while Kamala rushed to her help and started to dust all the ants off her. "It's all right, it's all right," she said. "Don't cry."

All the others surrounded her and kept dusting the ants off her. She was bitten more badly than Kamala and started to sob. Kamala put a consoling arm round her as they continued to climb the cliff. The climb down was much faster and by the time they reached the waters Leela had quite forgotten the welts on her arms and legs.

The sands of the cove were already covered with water. And the waves were coming in much faster and with greater force. Each wave was greeted with bursts of laughter from the group, who were quite unaware that high tide had already set in. They held hands as the waves became rougher and rougher and crashed into the



cove. The waves which rolled back to the sea pulled the children back into the sea, and they resisted the pull by bending backwards a little and digging their toes into the sands.

"Have you noticed that every seventh wave is always a big one?" exclaimed Kamala.

"Who told you that Kamala? You come out with strange facts," said Vinaya.

"Don't argue. Let's just count," said Kamala.

And so they started. One, two, three but before they could count four a really big wave suddenly crashed into the cove. Leela fell down and was being dragged into the sea. Kamala was quick and pounced on her. The others rushed forward to help Kamala. But Kamala had already lifted her up and helped her to climb on to a smooth rock. They were scared and it showed on their faces.

"Let's go," said Vinaya. This time there were no protests that they should stay longer. They started to climb the cliff but it was not really from the side of the cliff from where they had descended. There were tiny ledges on the opposite side and it was easier and quicker to climb up from there, avoiding the fury of the waves. Once they were safe, they sat down on a rock to get their breath back. A feeling of relief came over them. After a while they started climbing again. Suddenly Kamala called out, "Look what I've found."

It was a cave. They all crowded round the entrance.

"Let's explore," said Vikram. Udita who was good at sports like running, high jump etc. led the way. The others followed. There were little rocks in the cave almost like seats and each one took a seat on a rock.

"Cool," said Leela.

"What a lovely place," said Udita. "We can have all our

meetings here undisturbed."

"I hope there's nothing inside the cave," said Kamala.

"Don't be silly," said Udita. "What can there be? Bears and lions don't live in caves near the sea."

"Of course they don't," agreed Leela knowledgeably.

There was silence for a while. Only Vikram and Vinaya were a little apprehensive.

"Let's explore the cave," said Udita. She was getting impatient.

"Yes, let's," said Kamala, game for any adventure and got up.

Udita and Leela followed close behind.

Vikram and Vinaya followed reluctantly.

They walked deep into the cave. It was becoming dark inside. "The next time we come here we should bring a torch," said Kamala. "Yes, let's. Let us make it like a regular expedition," said Udita.

All of a sudden, Kamala shouted, "Look, look what I have found." All of them went and crowded round her. She pointed to little niches in the wall. They were rather like book shelves, and on the shelves neatly stacked were arms.

"Guns," said Kamala.

The shelves contained the deadly A.K. 42s with rounds of ammunition, bombs and other arms.

Just then they heard the sound of footsteps. Some one was walking towards the cave. "Hide, everyone, hide," commanded Vikram and they very quickly hid themselves, each behind a rock.

A man entered the cave, whistling. He had a gun in his hand. The children were frightened.

Had they stumbled into a situation filled with danger? Who was this man? Why was the cave full of arms and ammunition? What did he want the guns for? Would he kill them all because they had discovered some dreadful secret of his?

(To be continued...)

HERBAL TEAS FOR ALL SEASONS

ROSE TEA (for summer)

Things required

Tea powder - ½ Tea spoon
Sugar - 1 - 1½ Tea spoons
Water - ½ cup
Milk - ½ cup
Medium size rose flower - 1 (not hybrid ones)

Method :

Take a bowl and mix milk and water. Add the tea powder and sugar in this. Boil it till you get good colour of tea. Slightly crush the rose petals and drop them into the tea. Boil for a few seconds. Strain and enjoy.

Benefit : It is refreshing and cools down the body temperature.

GINGER TEA *(for the rainy season)*

The method is same as above. But instead of adding rose petals, add one small piece of crushed ginger.

Benefit : It prevents diarrhoea, checks indigestion and improves appetite.

TULASI TEA *(for winter)*

Procedure is same as above but instead of adding ginger, add crushed leaves of Tulasi.

Benefit : It prevents cold and cough. Relieves throat problems.

- P. Sai Deepak, Std. IV,
Saikor English Medium School,
Vizianagaram.

DID YOU KNOW?

BEDS WHICH LIFT AND TREAT!

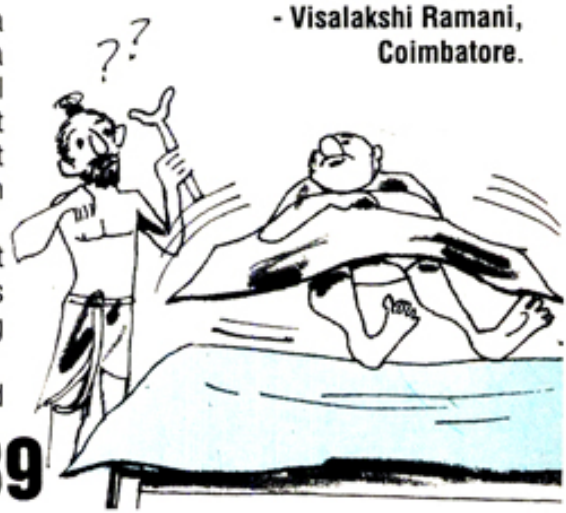
One of the most unusual applications of the hover principle is the hover-bed. This is used to support the badly burnt patients on a cushion of air and speed up the healing process.

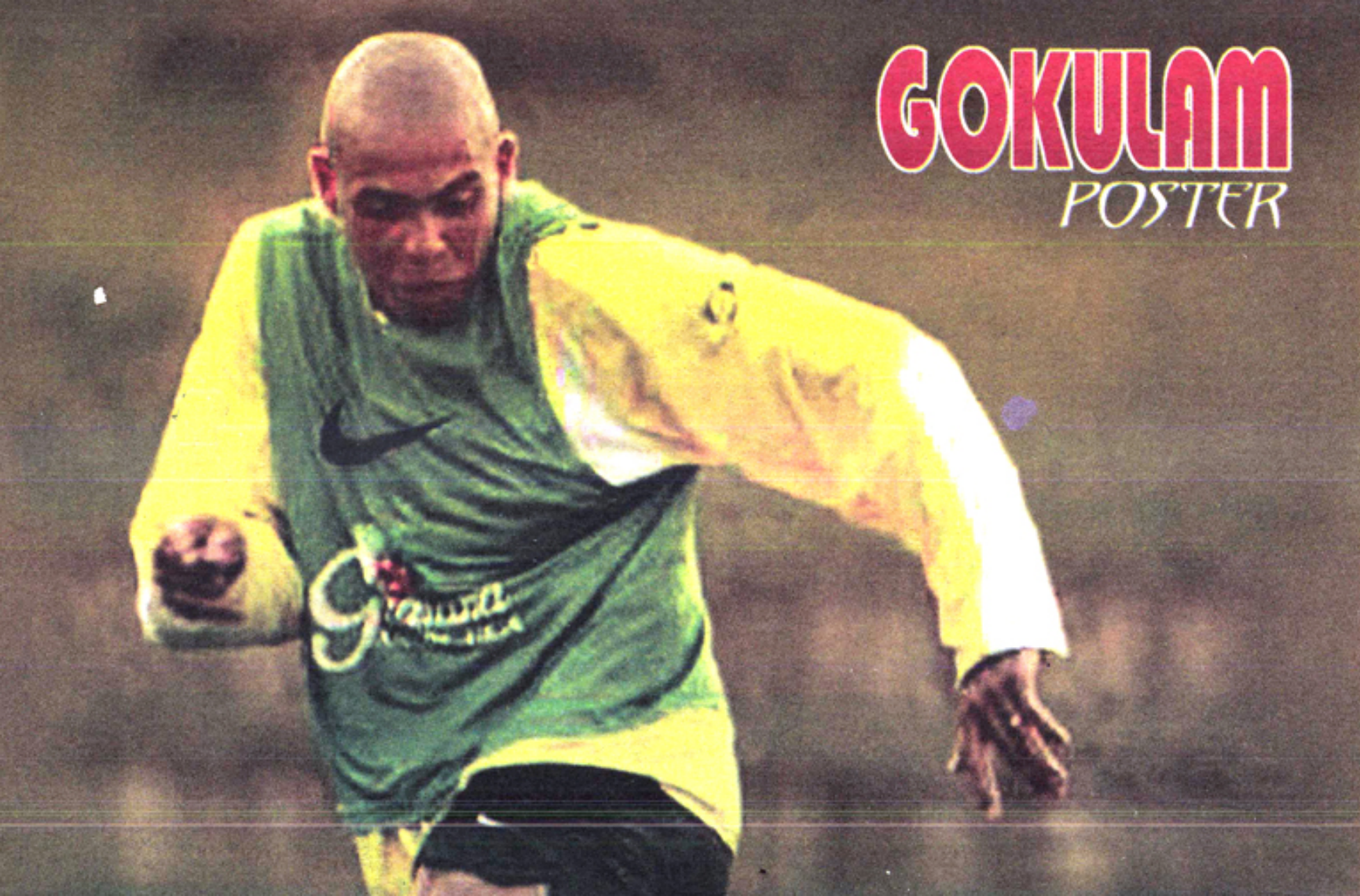
The hover - bed was designed by a British Bio-engineer Dr. J.T. Scales and a team of engineers. They thought that it will be a wonderful idea to turn the hovercraft upside down and blow air upwards so that the patients can be supported by a cushion of clean and sterile air.

When he is supported on air without contact on any surface, he would grow his new skin faster as it will not be getting rubbed unnecessarily.

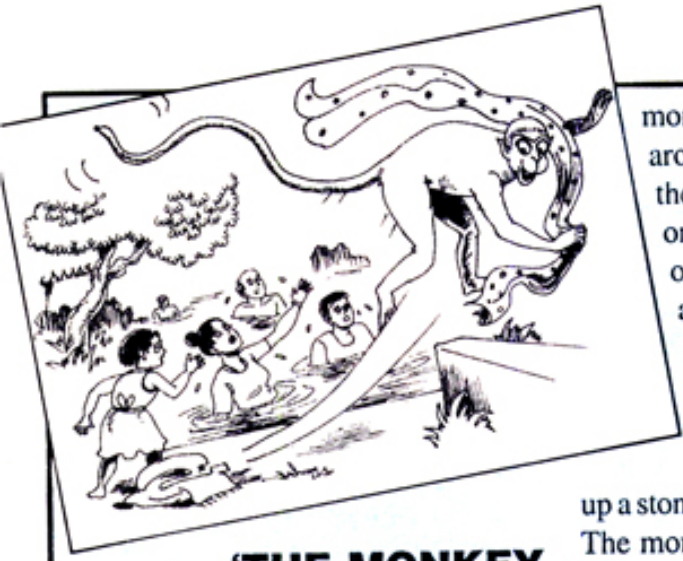
After several experiments, the hover bed was successfully designed. It was tried at Mount Vernon Hospital and approved. It is indeed a blessing to perons badly burnt or scalded.

- Visalakshi Ramani,
Coimbatore.




GOKULAM
POSTER

RONALDO
MAN OF THE MOMENT
WORLD CUP - 2002



'THE MONKEY AND THE DUPATTA'

During summer vacation, I went with my family to the temple at Mahanandi. By the side of the temple there was a river. There were many monkeys (small and big) running around. We all went for a bath in the river. We had left our things on the bank. As we were having our bath, one big monkey ran away with my mother's dupatta. We saw this happening but did not know what to do. As we stood stunned, a local man picked up a stone and threw it near the monkey. The monkey reacted immediately. He threw the dupatta down as he jumped onto another branch of the tree. Luckily, the dupatta was not torn. This incident reminded me of the story 'The monkeys and the cap seller'.

- Maya Nagasunder, Std. I, St. Anthony's HS, Hyderabad.

EXPERIENCES

A BIRTHDAY ON THE TRAIN

I live in Coimbatore with my mother and sister. My father works in Mumbai. During summer vacation this year, my father took us to Mumbai. We could get tickets only for 24th of April. We would reach Mumbai only on the 26th morning. This meant that my sister could not have her birthday party because her birthday was on 25th.

When we woke up on 25th (we were on the train), we had a pleasant surprise awaiting us. There was a nice birthday cake set on the side table in our first class compartment. Near it, lay a charming special knife. Daddy asked my sister to cut the cake. We all greeted her and sang 'happy birthday'. My sister was thrilled and we thanked my father for the thoughtful gesture.

- V. Neeraja, Std. II, Avila Convent Matric HS, Coimbatore.

OVERCOMING THE 'SOCIAL MANIA'

It all happened when I was in standard ten. I always fared well in all subjects other than Social Studies - it probably had something to do with a kind of 'social mania' that I had! My Social Studies teacher ofcourse, would always scold me for this and also tease me in front of the entire class. For some reason, I decided to take it upon myself as a challenge to do well in my Public Exam just to prove a point.

I spent sleepless nights and studied for 18 hours everyday for 8 days burning mid-night oil! I worked with a lot of grit and determination and attended my exam with a lot of confidence. When the results were announced, I was simply elated. I had got 98% (All India Second Rank) in Social Studies. My teacher too was thrilled and she gave me a prize. I thanked her profusely for I felt I owed it all to her. I may not have been driven to challenge myself but for her!

- V.N. Balaji, Std. XI, Devanathan Matric HSS, Chennai.

THE UNGRATEFUL ACT!

The last day of school is probably the happiest moment in any student's life. It was going to be a two month vacation! After chatting with my friends, I returned home late that evening. That was when I saw something really horrible that made me feel very sad.

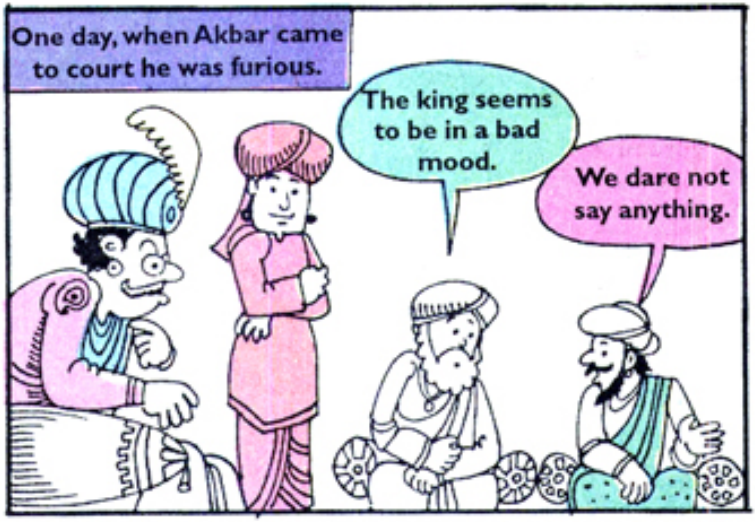
A few boys from a nearby school were throwing their books into a road-side bin! I simply couldn't believe it! I felt that all their education was being wasted by that ungrateful act. It took me a very long time to come out of this horrible scene that I had witnessed.

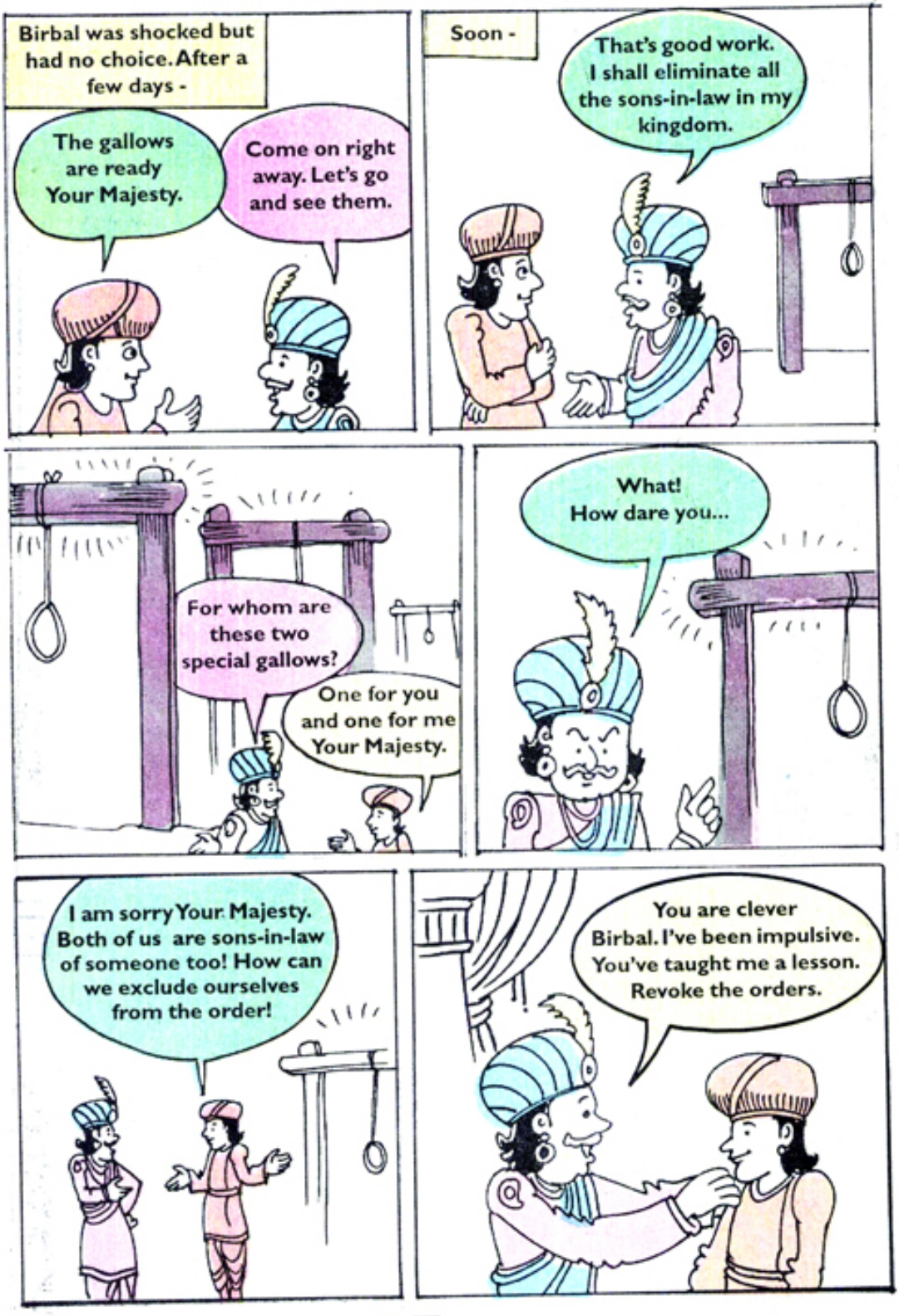
- Kokila S. Kumar, Std. X,
St. Joseph of Cluny GHSS,
Pondicherry.

A BIRBAL STORY

THE GALLOWS

Story : Jihan, Std V,
Chettinad Vidyashram,
Chennai.
Illustration :
Mahesh




Birbal was shocked but had no choice. After a few days -
The gallows are ready Your Majesty.
Come on right away. Let's go and see them.
Soon -
That's good work. I shall eliminate all the sons-in-law in my kingdom.
For whom are these two special gallows?
One for you and one for me Your Majesty.
What! How dare you...
I am sorry Your Majesty. Both of us are sons-in-law of someone too! How can we exclude ourselves from the order!
You are clever Birbal. I've been impulsive. You've taught me a lesson. Revoke the orders.

OH! WHAT FUN!

I. FUN WITH MATHS

1) Guru was asked to divide a number by 7. But he multiplied the number by 7. If the result he got was 7, what should be the correct answer?

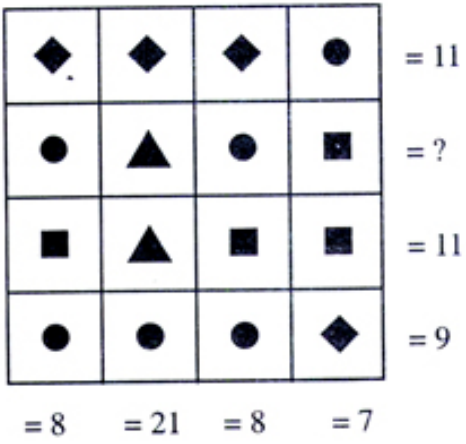
- R. Kutti Prasanna, Karur.

2) How can you make a total of 1,000 by using sixteen fours?

3) Can you write 31 using only digit 3, five times?

- A. Abdul Wajid, Thangamani Mat. Hr. Sec. School, Chennai.

4) What is the value of the second row?



- Abhishek Gopal, St. John's Vestry A.I., Hr. Sec. School, Trichy.

5) Minu was selling oranges in the market place. One of her customers said she would buy the entire lot. She asked Minu how many oranges were there in the basket. Minu could count only till ten and all she could tell the customer was this. "When I put the oranges in heaps of

2, there was 1 orange left
3, there were 2 oranges left
4, there were 3 oranges left
5, there were 4 oranges left
6, there were 5 oranges left."

Can you find out how many oranges there were in the basket?

- M. Vinodh, Vridhachalam.

II. FUN WITH MATCHES

1) Using four match sticks make a square. Now add four more match sticks in such a way that you have a total of two squares and four triangles.

- Sagar Bharat Sahita, Std. VIII, Sharon English High School, Mumbai.

III. GRIN AND BEAR IT!

1) What does the sea say to the sand?
2) What do ants take when they are ill?
3) What makes a tree noisy?
4) When is seven an even number?
5) What driver can't drive?
6) Where do bees go for transport?
7) Which animal needs oiling?
8) What runs but has no legs?

- M. Asha Shereen, Std.VII, Savithri Vidyasala Hindu Girls Hr. Sec. School, Trichy.

V. Match the diseases with the parts they affect:

1. Tonsilitis	a) Eye
2. Pneumonia	b) Joints
3. Cataract	c) Throat
4. Psoriasis	d) Liver
5. Arthritis	e) Skin
6. Jaundice	f) Lungs

- P. Uthara Priyadharshini, Std. VIII, K.V. Airforce Station, Thane.

IV. FUN WITH GEOGRAPHY

Fill in the boxes using the given clues to discover the name of a country known as "The Land of Thunder Dragons."

1) A South American State which lies astride the Andes.

2) A land locked republic in Central Asia.

3) The most densely populated country in Europe.

4) Gift of the River Nile.

5) A small rectangular territory in the South West corner of the Iberian Peninsula.

6) The Largest African Country.

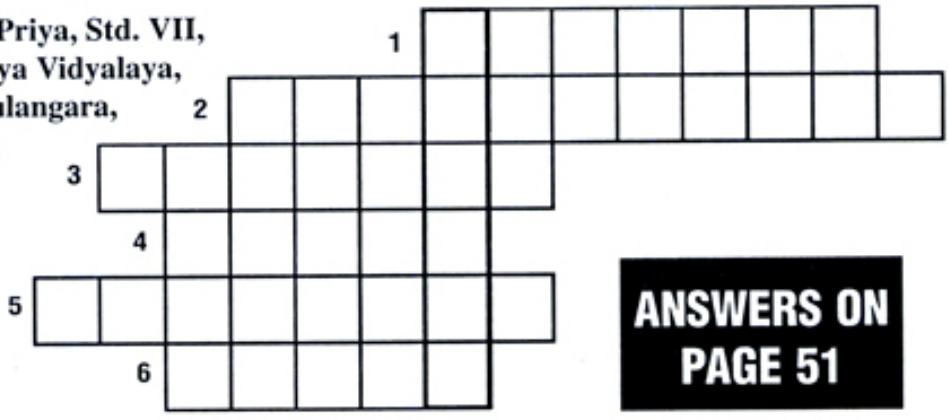
- M.R. Priya, Std. VII, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Kallekulangara, Kerala.

VI. PAIRS OF WORDS

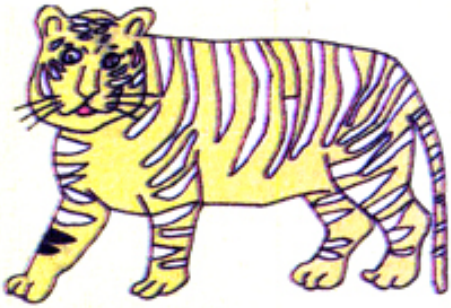
The word in the box makes pairs individually with the words on the right. Here's an example:

M A N	Made	Power
	man made;	man power
_ _ N _	Lord	Mark
_ H _ _ _	Hand	Circuit
_ _ D _ _	Ground	Growth
_ _ _ L _ _ _	Bomb	Family
_ U _	Flower	Stroke
_ O _ S _	Power	Gram

- Archana Challa, Age 16, Hyderabad.



ANSWERS ON PAGE 51

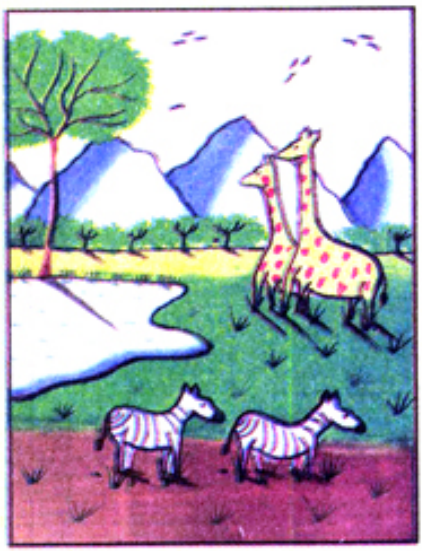


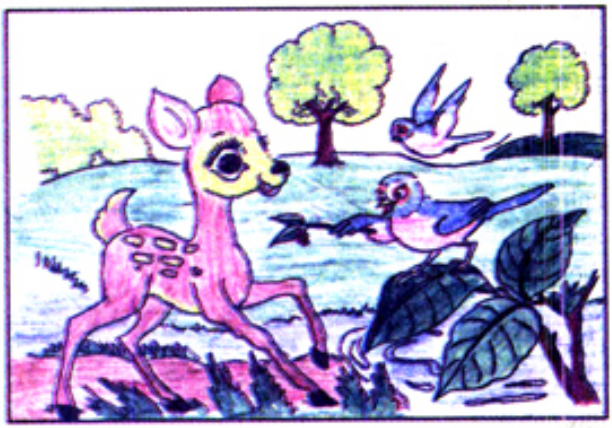
R. Saran Raj,
Std VI,
Sri Sankara
Matriculation HSS,
Chennai.

S. Vignesh
Std VII, Golden Gates
Mat. HSS, Salem.

Hemalakshmi
Std VII,
Holy Family Convent,
Chennai.

S. Dhanya
Std VII, Sri Sankara
Vidyashramam,
Chennai.





GOD MADE THEM ALL

ART GALLERY

THE PARENT PAGE

Story

ALL ABOUT BUSINESS

Kumarappa, a successful grocery shop owner was ailing. He wanted to hand over the reins of the business to his two sons - Ram and Shekar, who were in their twenties. Ram, the elder of the two was quite sociable and picked his friends easily, but his knowledge of mathematics was poor. Shekar, the younger brother was quite reserved and rarely talked with others. However, he was brilliant at numbers and calculations.

One day, Kumarappa called his sons aside and told them, "Sons, I want to leave my shop to you for two days and each shall handle it for a day. The better of you will be rewarded." The sons readily agreed.

Day one was Ram's turn. He lured passers by with his attractive style of talking. He told them, "This toothpaste is launched only today in our town. Already it is a big hit in Bombay. So, why don't you just try one out? The rice we have has just arrived from Andhra. Shall I give you 1 kg for trial?"

Tempted by his talk, people started buying. But when they asked him how much they should pay him, he stam-

mered and blinked. His calculations went awry. People took advantage of his weakness. They bought heavily, paid so little and cheated him. Ram was happy that he could sell half the stock in just one day.

Day two was Shekar's turn. He never invited people into his shop, but when they came in and asked for groceries, he would say, "You want rice? This brand costs Rs. 17 per kg. A 25 kg bag costs Rs. 425. Two bags cost Rs. 850". He did not talk anything other than the price. He sold less but the collection he realised was the same as that on the previous day.

Later in the day, Kumarappa came to the shop, reviewed the sales for the past two days and was thoroughly disappointed. He refused to reward both who started grudging that the were fooled by their dad.

Kumarappa told them that he would give them one more chance. This time Ram would do the selling and Shekar would maintain the accounts. This was agreed to reluctantly, but day three was a run-away hit. Ram's sales talk was coated with sugar pills and Shekar's maintaining of accounts was meticulous. Both of them realised that successful business calls for both marketing and accounting skills. Also placing the right person in the right spot is very important! They utilized their strengths and overcame their weaknesses by hard work.

Ram and Shekar turned out to be very successful businessmen later on.

V.Viswanathan
Chennai.

ANSWERS PAGE

THAT WAS FUN!

I. FUN WITH MATHS

1) 1/7

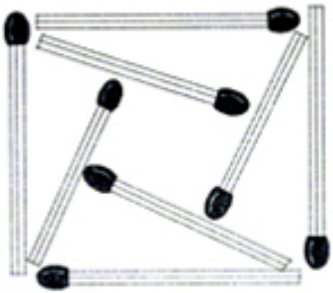
2) 444+444+44+44+4+4+4 +4+4+4

3) $3^3 + 3 + 3/3 = 31$

4) Solution : 13
(◆=3, ●=2, ■=1, ▲=8)

5) 1 1 9 Oranges

II. FUN WITH MATCHES



III. GRIN AND BEAR IT!

1. Nothing, it just waves! 2. 'ANT'ibiotics! 3. Its 'bark'! 4. When you take 's' away! (even) 5. A screw driver! 6. To a buzz-stop! 7. Mice, because they squeak! 8. A tap!

IV. FUN WITH GEOGRAPHY

					1	**B**	O	L	I	V	I	A
			2	A	F	G	**H**	A	N	I	S	T	A	N
	3	B	E	L	G	I	**U**	M				
			4	E	G	Y	P	**T**				
5	P	O	R	T	U	G	**A**	L				
			6	S	U	D	A	**N**				

V. MATCH

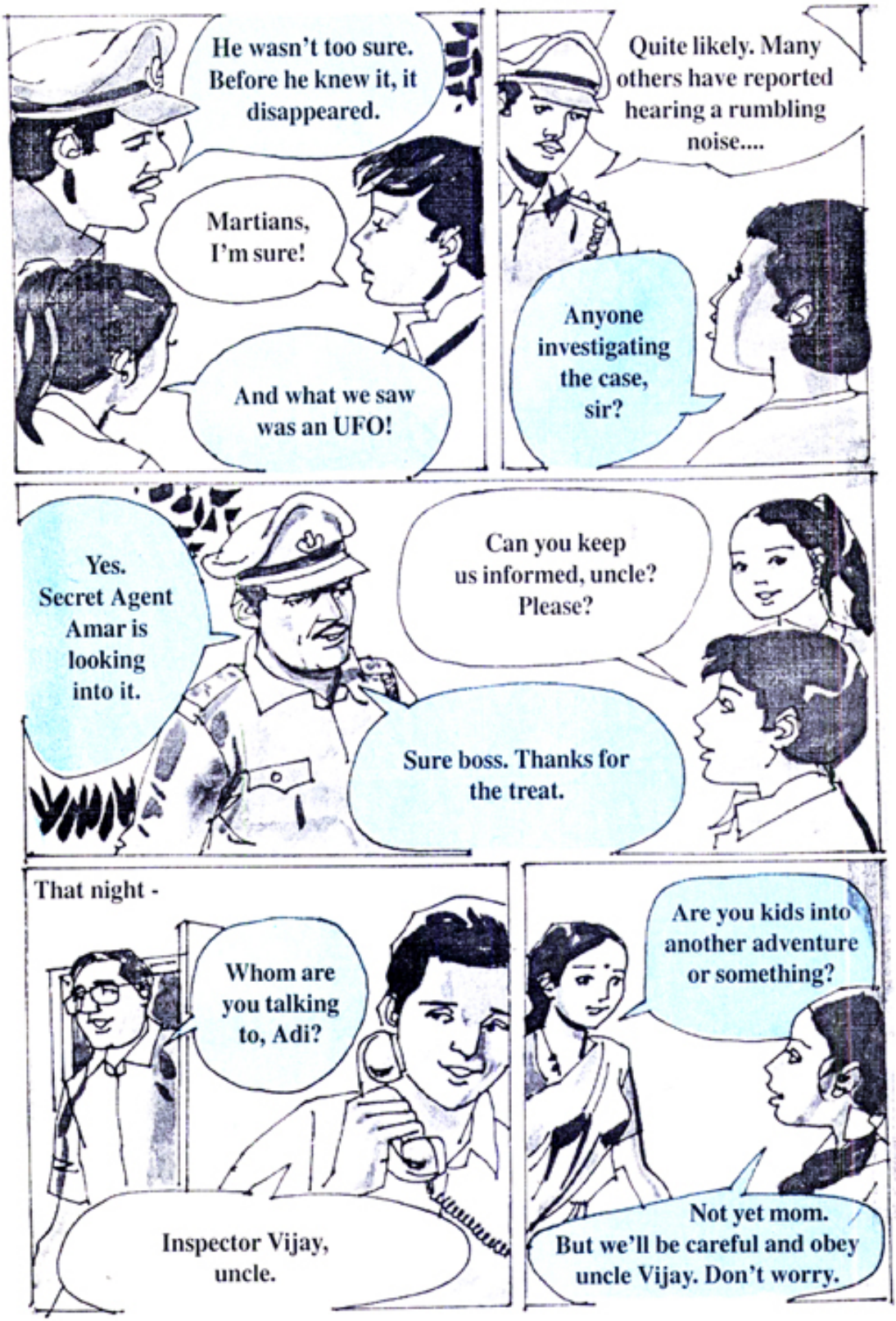
1 - c, 2 - f,
3 - a, 4 - e,
5 - b, 6 - d

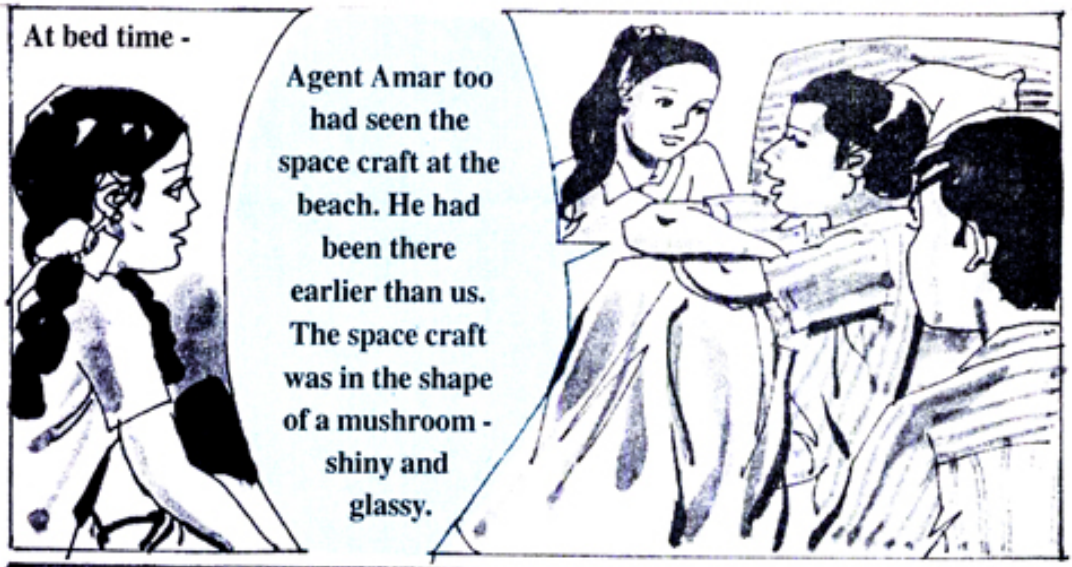
VI. PAIRS OF WORDS

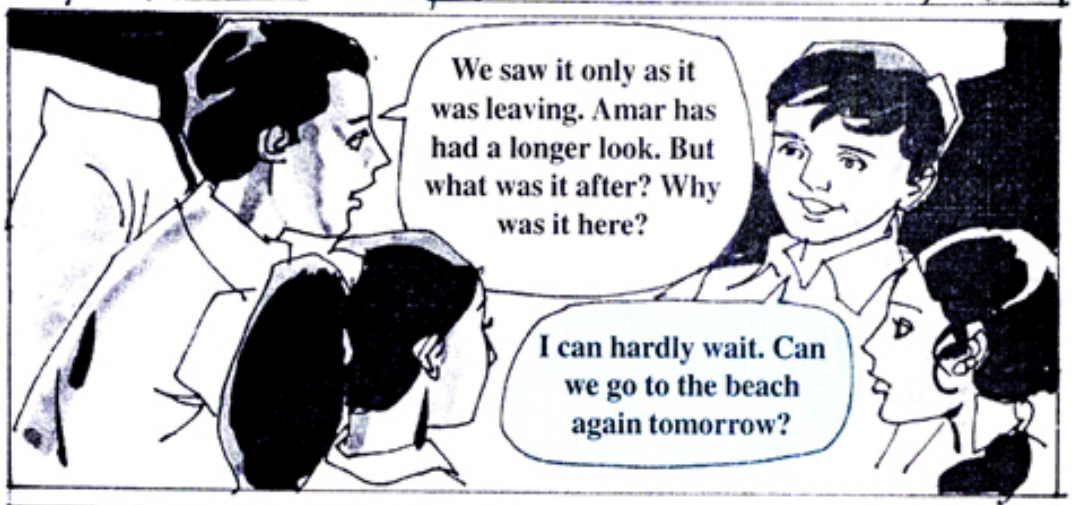
1. LAND
2. SHORT
3. UNDER
4. NUCLEAR
5. SUN
6. HORSE

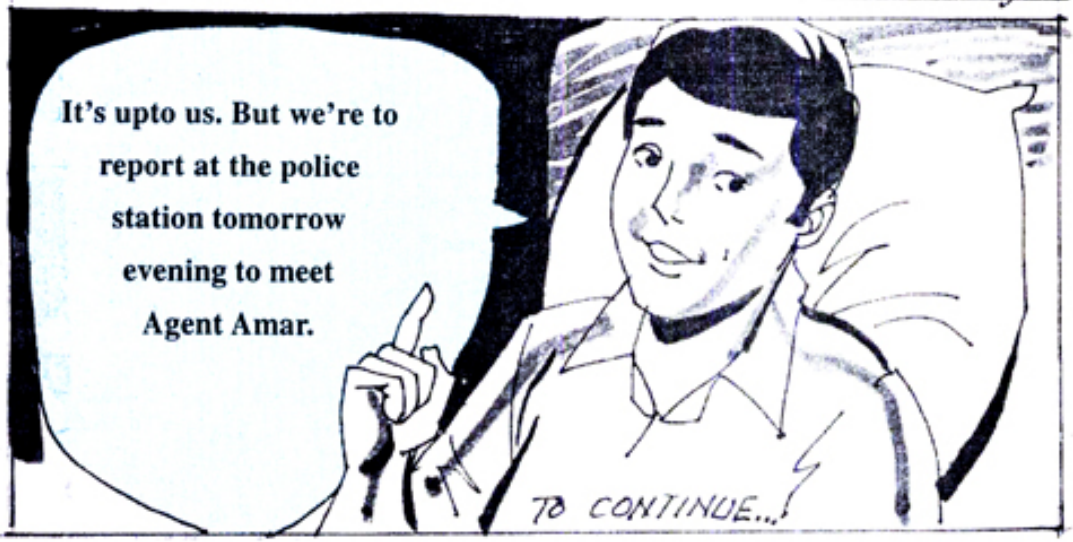
IT 2
THE STRANGE CREATURES
STORY: APARNA VISWANATHAN
PICTURES: JEYARAJ
Early next morning -
Come out of the water, Preetha! You'll catch a cold.
Then you can't be part of the adventure...
Stop bullying her, will you!
Look! Look there all of you!
The children saw the most wonderful sight.
I am sure its a space craft.
Its hovering over the water.
Maybe its just a helicopter or a trainer aircraft.
Look! Its gone behind the clouds.
Lets go home and telephone Inspector Vijay.
Don't be an idiot. We don't want uncle and aunt to know, do we?
Ofcourse not. We'll just walk to his office after we've been to the museum.

After breakfast, the children went to the museum.
I am so excited. We'll get to see some parchments.
I like the section on dolls.
Let's split. Meet at the gate in an hour's time.
After an hour at the museum, the chat shop just outside was inviting.
Yummy!
Watch out you glutton! You'll have an upset tummy.
Look who's coming.
Hi guys! Giving me a treat?
Sure uncle. Do join us. We saw a most wonderful sight this morning.
The children briefed the inspector .
That's a coincidence. Ramu works here at the museum. He says he heard a funny noise this morning...
We didn't hear any noise. We only saw...
Don't interrupt Keshav. Just listen.
Ramu also thought he saw something crawling through the fields, behind the main building last night.
What did it look like, uncle? Did he tell you?


He wasn't too sure. Before he knew it, it disappeared.
Martians, I'm sure!
And what we saw was an UFO!
Quite likely. Many others have reported hearing a rumbling noise....
Anyone investigating the case, sir?
Yes. Secret Agent Amar is looking into it.
Can you keep us informed, uncle? Please?
Sure boss. Thanks for the treat.
That night -
Whom are you talking to, Adi?
Inspector Vijay, uncle.
Are you kids into another adventure or something?
Not yet mom. But we'll be careful and obey uncle Vijay. Don't worry.


At bed time -
Agent Amar too had seen the space craft at the beach. He had been there earlier than us. The space craft was in the shape of a mushroom - shiny and glassy.


We saw it only as it was leaving. Amar has had a longer look. But what was it after? Why was it here?
I can hardly wait. Can we go to the beach again tomorrow?


It's upto us. But we're to report at the police station tomorrow evening to meet Agent Amar.
TO CONTINUE...!

A REAL SURPRISE

Recently, my parents took me to a place called Tamarack in West Virginia, USA. I was thrilled to see a pink coloured building shaped like a lotus, our National flower.

Added to my surprise was a greetings post card from my uncle at New Delhi. Guess what was in it?

It was a picture of the Lotus temple at New Delhi!

My joy knew no bounds to observe that there are buildings shaped like the lotus, our national flower!

- B. Keerthana, Std.III, Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan, Senior Secondary School, Chennai.

LOVE THY SIBLING

Sibling rivalry, is an universal phenomenon. There is always a brother or sister waiting at home to provoke you, to irritate you and to go one-up by competing with you. Certainly your parents cannot relish the sight of their children quarrelling for anything and everything. They deserve a better deal from their children.

Children on their part should understand some finer elements of character by following a give-and-take policy. It is certainly a great experience to share and to care for your siblings and live for them. After all, it is said that blood is thicker than water.

Albert and Albrecht Durer were born in a poor family of eighteen children and lived near Nuremberg in Germany. The two had a passion for drawing and wanted to study fine arts in the Nuremberg Academy. But they had not enough money to pursue their study. They both were working in the nearby mines and their father was too poor to pay for the study in the Academy. But their passion for fine arts was too great that soon they found a way about.

One of them must work in the mines to earn money to pay for the study ex-

* Albert

• Albrecht

• a self portrait of Albrecht

• Praying 'Hands'

penses of the other. The other, after completing the course, which ran to a four-year period, must help the former to do his studies by taking care of his Academy expenses. By toss of a coin it was decided who should pursue what.

It turned out that Albrecht must go to the Academy and Albert to the mines. Things went on as planned and Albrecht came out renowned, with a few feathers in his hat that declared him as one of the best artists of his time.

Now it was the turn of Albert to begin his study. But he could not. Tough work at the mines had taken the toll of his hands - the hands that are very essential to make gentle strokes on the canvas. His hands were affected by arthritis and there was not a single finger that was not crushed at least once. Albert had to bury his passion for drawing in having rendered selfless help to his brother.

But did he feel for it? Had he spoilt his own future? Albert didn't think so. He had the tremendous satisfaction of having seen his brother complete the study in fine arts. He knew that if both of them had decided not to give the first chance to the other to pursue the studies, they both would have forever struggled in the mines and lived unknown and unsung.

The noble sacrifice of Albert has been immortalised by Albrecht in oil and canvas. He painted the badly abused hands of his brother - with palms together and fingers raised skyward as if in prayer. The painting turned out to be a masterpiece and now even after 450 years, copies of the original painting are adorning many homes.

Albrecht called his painting 'Hands' but the world recognises it as 'Praying Hands' - the hands that have come to symbolise what a person can do for his dear sibling.

- Jayasree Sarnathan, Hosur.

A POEM

"NOT TO WORRY?"

I have many friends - yet,
On that day made another one,
Simply because more friends
Can add more fun!

I met him near a cemetry
Busy doing Geometry;
I taught him sums
He offered me plums!

At midnight while he was dancing,
I stood there sweating and freezing.
Suddenly his nails did grow,
His 'ghost'ly face changed like a crow!

I ran as fast as
My legs could carry;
Bumped, swooned and woke up to find
In front of me - a fairy!

The fairy with her magic wand,
Sparkled on me a friendly bond.
I told her the entire story
She told me not to worry!

She took me near the same lamp-post
Where I had met my friend, the ghost;
And, suddenly she vanished
For doing nothing, it seemed I was punished.

As I stood there puzzled,
I heard the policeman's whistle.
He thought I was a thief
And took me to his chief!

The chief all in a hurry,
Charged me of robbery.
He put me behind the jail;
I could do nothing, but to wail!

I thought of the fairy,
I thought of the ghost;
I stood there screaming - until,
I realised I was dreaming!

- R. Praveen Kumar,
Acharya Narendra Dev college,
New Delhi.

HOW CAN I CONTROL SLEEP?

● **Shalini S. Shastry, Bangalore.**

? I am in standard XI. I constantly feel sleepy. This has affected my studies. How can I control sleep?

It seems that you lead a sedentary life and lack exercise. To keep fit, you need to exercise for about 45 minutes every day. You should take a diet high in proteins, minerals and vitamins which will help you in maintaining good physical and mental health. Try to have a regular schedule of sleep and sleep for at least 7 hour's a day without any break. This will help you in overcoming the habit of excess sleep.

● **K. Swapna, Karimnagar.**

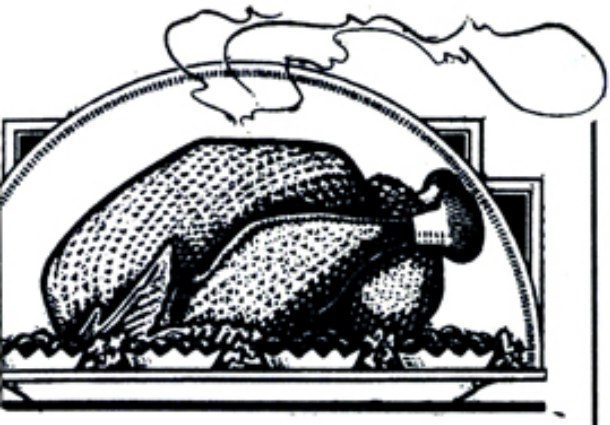
? Why do some people find difficulty in pronouncing certain words or letters? How can this defect be cured?

! It is just like stammering. It has both psychological and neurological cause. People may have had a problem with some words while they developed speech and it this may have caused a psychological block making them pause a while before saying those words. To overcome this problem, they have to try saying the words which trouble them slowly and in a relaxed mood several times everyday. Pronouncing at a slower speed makes the words come out better. In the meantime, they should also get their mouth, tongue and teeth examined to rule out any anatomical cause.

● **S. Ramkumar, Coonoor.**

? Can we have non-vegetarian diet or not? Does it affect our health?

! We can have non-vegetarian diet upto the age of 45. After that we should certainly reduce the quantity and frequency of taking them. Otherwise it will affect our health. A non-vegetarian diet usually contains a



large amount of fat. Hence, excessive intake of non- vegetarian items may cause overweight, obesity and high blood cholesterol level which can lead to heart trouble, liver trouble, high blood pressure, diabetes etc.

- **R. Pravin Kumar, Chennai-17**

? What is gall bladder? Where is it situated? How does it help our body?

The gall bladder is a small, pear - shaped pouch found in the right side of the abdomen. It rests on the underside of the right portion of the liver. It has a small tube called cystic duct in its neck. This duct enters the hepatic duct which comes from the liver. Together, these ducts form a common bile duct, that connects the liver and duodenum which is the first part of the small intestine. The liver secretes a yellow fluid called bile. The gall bladder receives and stores about 45 millilitres of bile at time. It concentrates the bile ten-fold. During digestion of food, the bile flows from the gall bladder and empties into the duodenum. Bile has bile salts, bile pigments, cholesterol, electrolytes and water. Bile salts are needed for the digestion of fatty foods.

DR. G. GANESAN,
Rajapalayam.

CREATIVE CORNER

MAKE A BIRD

1. Take a cloth hanger which can be bent easily and a piece of wire.
2. Bend the hanger. Tie the piece of wire to the hanger and shape the beak, tail and two wings.
3. Cover the wings, tail and face of the 'bird' using colour paper.

* Try making shapes of other animals too!

- M. Swarna, Std. XI, Dharam Hinduja M.H.S.School, Chennai-19.

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Regards,

(Signature)

★ Offer valid only until August 31, 2002.
★ Out station cheques not accepted.

WHAT KIND ARE YOU?

● CHEERFUL? ● SILENT? ● CALM? ● COOL? ● TENSE? ● TALKATIVE?

We meet different kinds of people everyday. There are wide ranges of categories right from the weird behaviour types to the fuzzy haired, rockstar types - we come across them everyday...

There's the peppy, cheerful type - always seeing the lighter side of situations. They laugh a lot and have fun all the time. They care more about others than themselves and while writing letters they'd write down a whole song if that's what it takes to make someone happy.

We have the more silent type. They help people a lot,

believe they can manage a tight schedule somehow. They maintain the same nature all the time. They don't get angry often.

The tensed type are always worried about things. They always pre-plan things and yet stay tensed. They work really hard under pressure and they admit it. Though they laugh and have a jolly time, they keep a part of their mind on the things they have to do once the fun is over. They are usually pretty orderly and follow regular routines, getting things done on time.

The talkative, helpful type... They are the people who keep chatting all the time. They ease their minds by chatting. They like to know about the people they are friendly with and are always eager to lend you a pen whenever you need one! They are people with fantasies and... I think they love writing stories (especially really long ones). They are full of fun if you get to know them well.

though in small ways. They are deeply appreciated for their caring nature. They think a lot and often slip into their own world of dreams. They are the kind you can take your problems to, even if they don't offer the greatest of solutions.

The ever calm and cool type are the kind who are 99 percent of the time free of all tension. They take their time to do things but at the end you know its all worth it. They are really confident and they

These are just five different kinds of people I've noticed from my observations. There are always wonderful qualities in a person no matter how he may be, and no matter which category he belongs to. Everyone has beautiful character, somewhere within. If we only try to realize, we'll know...

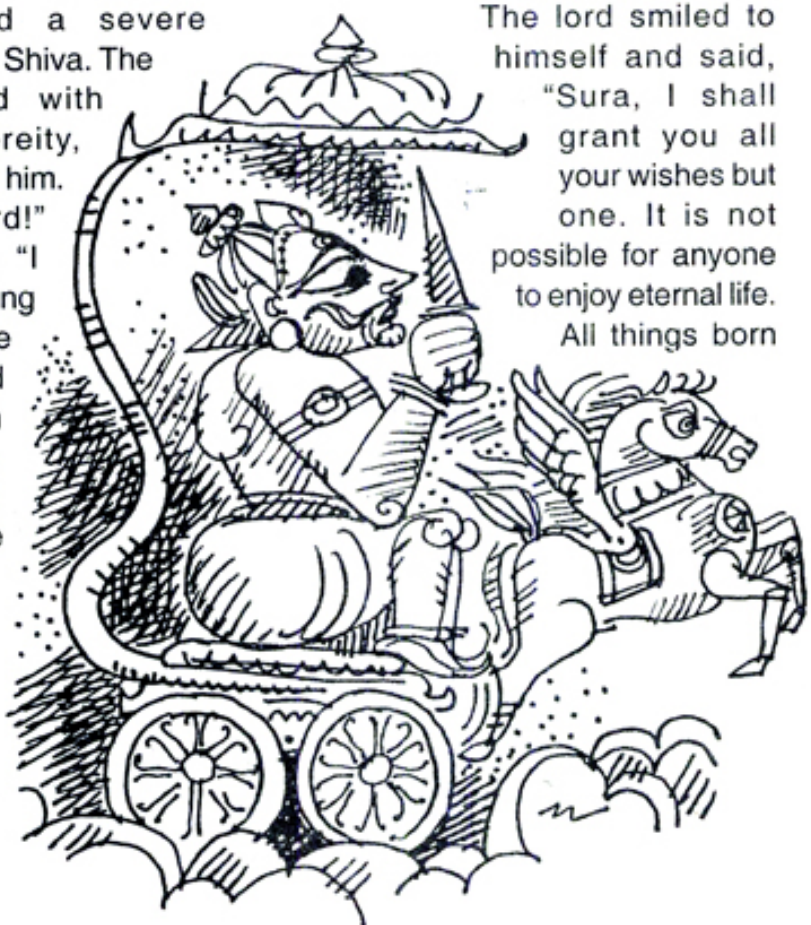
- Grace Arundhati, Age 14,
St. Patrick's AIHS, Chennai.

STORY

THE BIRTH OF LORD MURUGA

Surapadman was the king of the asuras. Craving to become more powerful, he performed a severe penance to Lord Shiva. The Lord, pleased with Sura's sincereity, appeared before him.

"Oh Lord!" prayed Sura. "I want to be the king of the entire Universe. I need a chariot from you that will take me wherever I wish to go - the stars, the heavens, the other planets ...wherever! Please give me weapons with which I can defeat Brahma and Vishnu, for, I want to reign supreme. Finally, give me eternal life."



The lord smiled to himself and said, "Sura, I shall grant you all your wishes but one. It is not possible for anyone to enjoy eternal life. All things born

on this earth must die. However, you shall live for several thousand years and shall be very powerful." So saying, the Lord disappeared.

With great pride and ego, Sura then began his attack of the Devas. His brothers Singamukha and Tarakasura went along with him. The Devas fled in fear as they could not face the wrath of the Asura king. Even Lord Brahma and Lord Vishnu eventually had to surrender. The Devas soon became slaves of the ruthless king.

Sura's atrocities increased day by day, month after month and over the years.

A new city called Veera Mahendrapuram was built in the heavens from where Sura ruled. He created havoc amongst the people. Sura's tribe too increased. His queens gave birth to more than a thousand sons and the asuras as a clan became more and more powerful!

The Devas were simply horrified. "How can we allow this insane Asura to continue with this kind of harassment?" they wept. The Devas begged their king Indra to do something. Indra decided to seek the advice of Brahma. On the latter's advice, the Devas went to the snow-clad Himalayas, the abode of Lord Shiva, to ask for help. After all, it was he who had granted Sura the boon!

Lord Shiva smiled. "What is the matter Indra? Why do you look so worried and desperate?" he asked. Ofcourse he knew perfectly well why they had come!

Indra prostrated before the Lord and said, "We have suffered enough. How long can we bear this slavery and humiliation? We apologise for any fault of ours that we may have committed in the past. Please help us and save us from this monstrous demon. You gave Sura all the powers. He is misusing the powers given to him. Please put

an end to our sufferings. Only you can help us."

Lord Shiva took pity on the Devas. He knew the time had come for him to put an end to their plight. As the Devas stood in reverence, Lord Shiva opened his third eye. The most wonderful thing happened!

Six flames flew out of Shiva's eye. Shiva asked Vayu and Agni the gods of wind and fire to carry the flames to the Saravana Lake. Vayu and Agni could not bear the heat and sought the help of River Ganga who gladly carried the flames and gently allowed them to float in the lake.

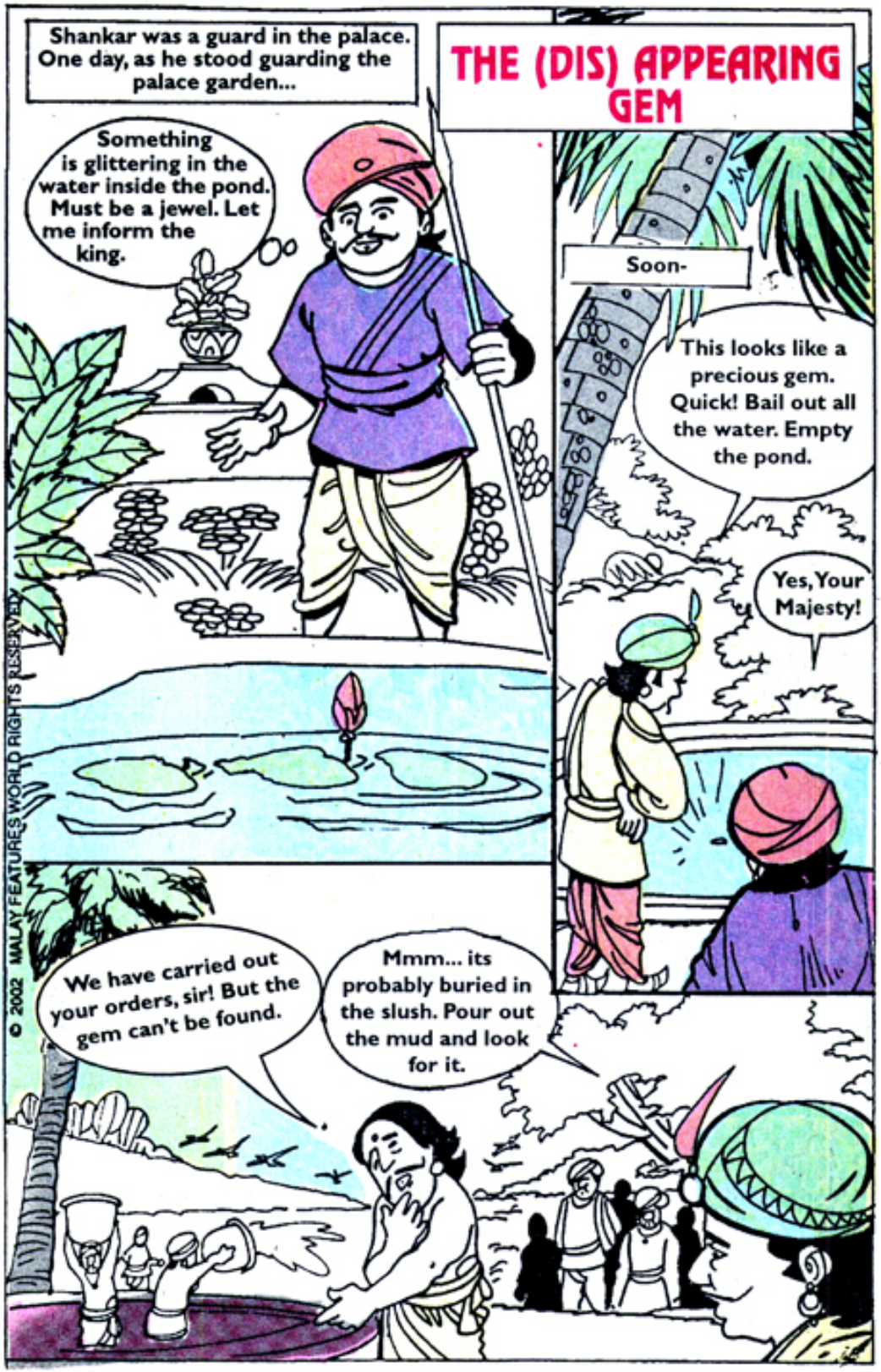
Yet another miracle took place. Six lotus flowers bloomed, one under each flame and there appeared six lovely babies in place of each flame. As night approached, six celestial beauties known as the Karthigai Stars descended from the sky and gently caressed each child in their arms. It was a beautiful sight.

When Parvathi and Lord Shiva came to see their babies, everyone rejoiced. Parvathi was overwhelmed to see her babies. She did not know which child to lift and fondle first. So, she carried all six of them together. What a wonder! The six babies became one child with six faces. Parvathi named him Shanmuga .(Shan meaning six and muga meaning face).

The Devas rejoiced. They knew that their saviour was born. The god of valour and victory was born.This was the child who was going to kill Sura and protect them.

– Anandhi

THE (DIS) APPEARING GEM



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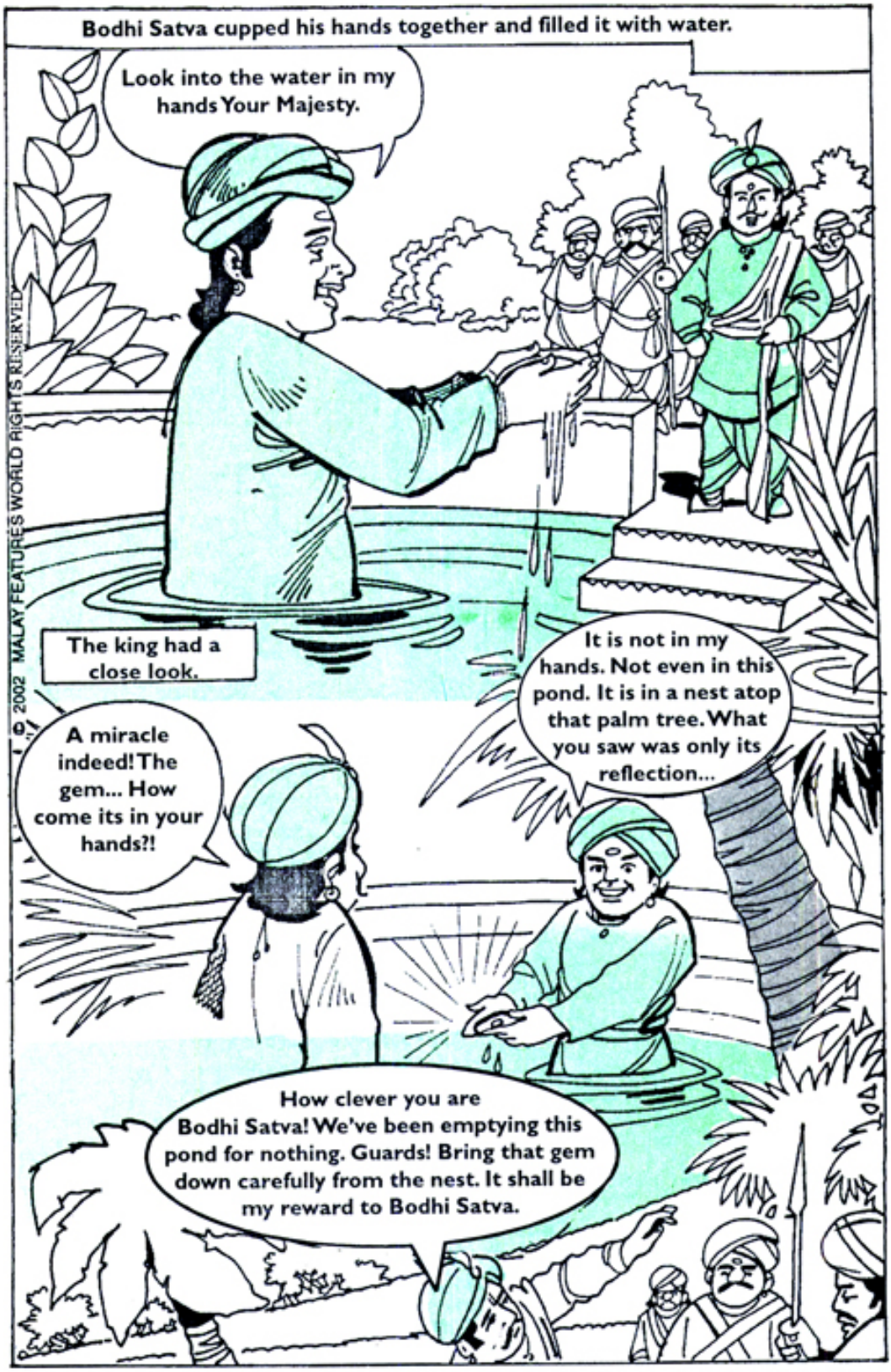
In a short while -
No luck, Your Majesty. Can't find the gem.
Where could it have disappeared? I wonder...
The pond was once again filled with water.
Ah! A miracle! The gem has appeared again!
The king was informed.
Bodhi Satva is sure to solve the mystery behind this. Send word for him.
Bodhi Satva examined the pond and the surrounding area. Then-
I know what it is!



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LETTER BOX

GOKULAM is so interesting that we do not feel like putting it down without reading the entire book at one shot. I am really grateful to my friend for introducing this book to me. The article on 'sharks' was superb!

- Anupama Spencer, Pune

My appreciation to Nethra for the story 'Harish Bhaiya'. People will surely be motivated by reading such stories.

- B. Kavya, Hyderabad

I laughed and laughed when I read the story 'The Bear Trap' and the column 'exam experience' (June 2002). I love **GOKULAM** very much. I also wrote to my friend about it.

- A. Pratibha, Proddatur, A.P.

All the articles in **GOKULAM** are worth reading. Nothing can be left unread. 'Tickle me please' and the picture story 'Hurry Bury' (July 2002) were really humourous.

- S. Rithu, K.S. Mithila, Trichy.

I am G.Rangaaram from Trichy. My poem 'morning stretch' was published in the July edition. However my name has been printed as Rangarajan.

- Rangaaram, Trichy.

Dear Rangaaram,

We are very sorry for the error.

- Editor

All the stories in the July edition, particularly Kaliya Nardanam, The Perfect Marksman and Harish Bhaiya were really good. Kindly make **GOKULAM** a fortnightly.

- Kumal and Kumtesh Barycha, Mumbai.

The serial 'A Holiday Adventure' is getting to be more and more interesting. I await every issue of **GOKULAM**. But, there is only one disappointment. Why is **GOKULAM** a monthly? It makes us feel very sad to wait for another whole month. Can't you make it a weekly? I hope the section on 'cartoons' by Lalitha Aunty will be interesting.

- Sidhamathy, Trichy

AN ALL-ROUNDER...

I find **GOKULAM** to be an 'all-rounder' book containing serials, stories, jokes, facts, art gallery, contests, poems and so on. It has also given me a precious chance to improve my writing skills and has encouraged me to write.

- R. Deepa, Chennai

Dear friends,

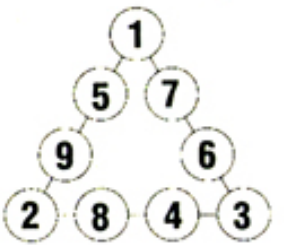
Here are the answers to the **BIG MAGIC NUMBER PUZZLE** that appeared in the July 2002 issue of Gokulam.

Big Magic Wheel (Numbers 1- 11)

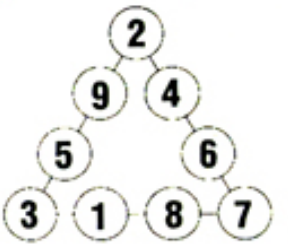
Sum = 14

Sum = 18

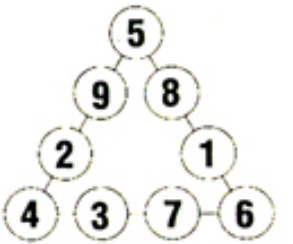
Big Magic Triangle (Numbers 1 - 9)



Sum = 17



Sum = 19



Sum = 20

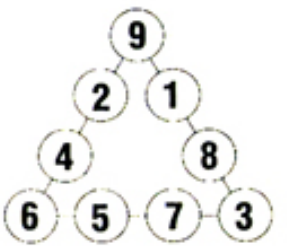
Magic 6 Point Star (Numbers 1-12)

Sum = 26

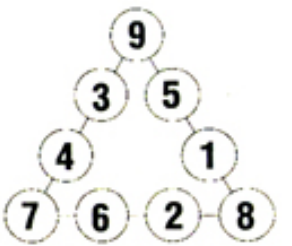
Big Magic Square (Numbers 1 - 11)

16	2	3	13
5	11	10	8
9	7	6	12
4	14	15	1

Sum = 34



Sum = 21



Sum = 23

There is a certain logic, a certain technique that is adopted for each of these puzzles. If you want to avail of the book, write to us at Scholastic India (P) Ltd., 14, 29th Cross, Indira Nagar, Chennai 600 020.

My sermon begins again next month! Until then good bye and good luck!

- Jyothi Swaroop, Scholastic India.

WILL SHE? WON'T SHE?

How happy Riya was that day - and rightfully so, because her father had decided that the family would go to Bangalore for the weekend.

While packing her belongings, the twelve year old girl although very excited, became a bit nervous as a bitter incident flashed through her mind...

Bhargavi was her best friend in Bangalore. She lived five houses away from her uncle's. Their friendship was like a delicate but strong thread. Unfortunately, a small dispute between them had resulted in a big quarrel and it was about two years now... So Riya was not too sure that Bhargavi would talk to her. "Will she? Won't she?" thought Riya to herself as she finished with her packing.

The first day in Bangalore was spent feasting, playing and chit-chatting with her cousins. Riya, had not met Bhargavi that day. "No embarrassment. So far so good," she thought to herself.

The next morning Riya's parents, uncle and aunt went visiting their relatives. The children were at home. It was then that the door bell rang.

When Riya opened the door, she was both taken aback and

elated. It was her loving friend, friend for life, Bhargavi, who stood outside with a sweet smile!

"Do you remember me Riya? How are you? I thought I saw you yesterday, with your cousins... but I wasn't too sure. This morning, I saw your parents at an auto-stand near my house. I knew you were here. How wonderful to meet after two years! Hey... are you still angry with me...?"

Riya gave Bhargavi a big hug.

- Ankita D.Patil,
Std. X,
Dombivili (E)

A REMINDER - ONCE AGAIN

Dear Readers,

★ You are most welcome to send in your contributions to **Gokulam** either by post or by e-mail. However, there is no guarantee that it will be published. It is also not possible for us to tell you when it will be published. But, if you require your contributions to be sent back to you on rejection, then you must enclose a self addressed, stamped envelope.

And remember every contribution sent by you should give details of your - **Name, Age, Class, Name and address of school, Residential address and a declaration stating that the contribution is your original creation (if not the source must be mentioned).**

ADDITIONAL ATTRACTION!

Two pages in your favourite magazine are set aside specially and exclusively for contributions from your parents. Ask your parents to write to us.

PARTICIPATION CERTIFICATE

You will receive a **participation certificate** from us if your contribution is published. At the end of the one year period ending June 2003, the person with most number of participation certificates will receive a special prize. Collect your certificates and keep them carefully.

WISH YOU GOOD LUCK!

– Editor

TURNING POINTS

Dear Reader...

Turning points occur very rarely for the average adult. It is more or less a drab dull routine. But for children turning points occur very often.

A child learns to turnover on its stomach, begins to crawl, tries to sit and then slowly gets up to stand, all of which are turning points. Taking the first few steps is exciting not only for the baby but also for all those watching it.

Nursery school is not far off! The child learns to sing, dance and to make friends. It grows up fast and soon blossoms into a young boy or girl. Children outgrow their clothes and shoes very soon and have to go shopping very often.

Teenage is so thrilling! They get interested in new games and every book they read widens their horizon and every movie they see makes them dream of a colourful future!

Ofcourse there are responsibilities too for the children. Studying hard is one of them. Helping parents in household chores and learning to be a good citizen are other duties.

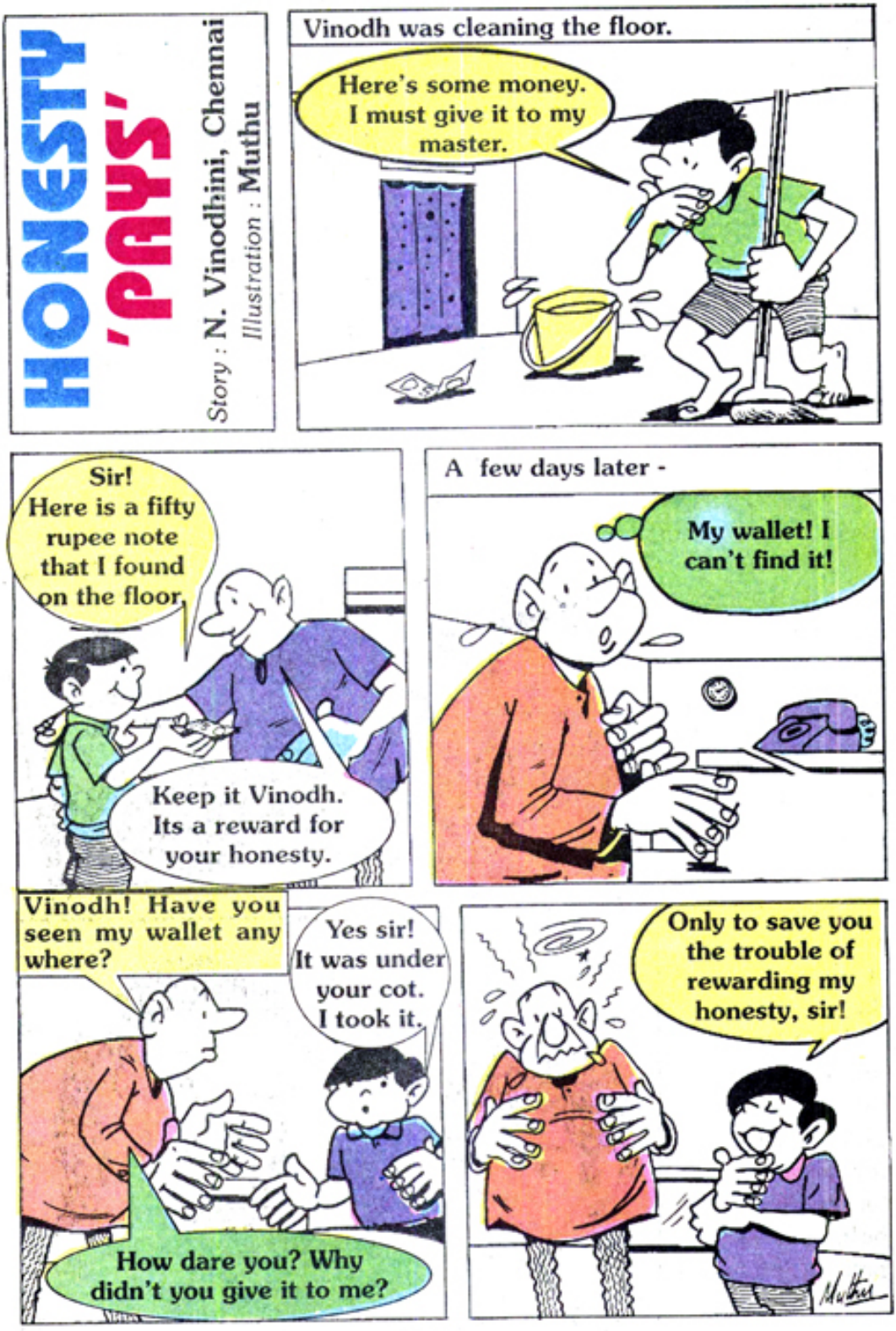
The biggest turning point of all comes at the end of the higher secondary stage when you have to choose your course of study and decide on your future along with it! This is the time when you get so many advises from everyone you know! But remember the future is yours and not what others want it to be.

So, take their advice and thank them, but think calmly in seclusion. What is it you want from out of life? Which profession or career will make you happy? Remember you cannot succeed unless you feel joy in whatever you do. Decide after some deliberation. But once you have taken a decision, make up your mind that it is the right decision and carry on! Don't ever look back or hesitate! Good luck!

- Editor

HONESTY 'PAYS'

Story : N. Vinodhini, Chennai
Illustration : Muthu

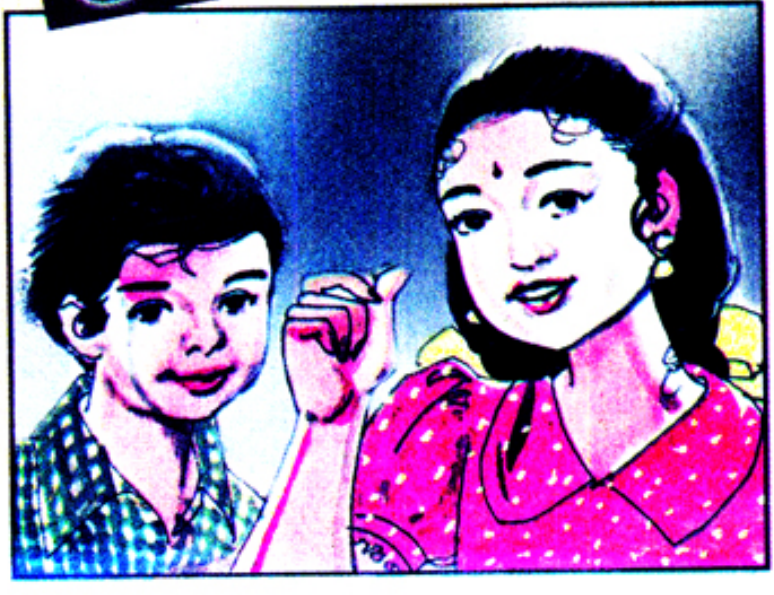


DOWN THE MEMORY TRACK

Namratha and Jaison were at the National Rail Museum in New Delhi admiring the splendour of the ***Fairy Queen.***

"It is true that certain things keep fascinating us, isn't it? Waves, mountains, tiny insects, trains... I enjoy train journeys. There is so much excitement every time you board a train. Every journey seems a new experience. Do you know that the ***Fairy Queen*** is our country's first railway engine and this museum's first exhibit?" asked Namratha.

"Of course I do! I love trains and I read a lot about them. I also have a wide collection of toys and models of different trains. I play for hours with my battery-operated locomotive set that belonged to my father when he was young. My uncle also sends me stamps of trains released on various occasions. Tell me, when did the first train run in India happen?"



"Our whole nation has been talking about it in recent times. It was way back on April 16, in 1853, 150 years ago ...look, here's uncle 'Bholu' our mascot for the 150 years of Indian Railways. Hi uncle!"

"Admiring the grandeur of our queen are you? Don't I look grand too in this special costume? Dressed like Bholu the elephant guard. Come on! Let me take you around. This is a special year for the railways and a lot is happening everywhere."

"You were in Mumbai on April 16th for the celebrations, weren't you uncle? How lucky! Tell us all about it," asked Jaison who wanted first hand information although he had already read about it in the papers and magazines.

"A memorable day indeed! Brought back nostalgic memories ...it was in the afternoon at the stroke of thirty-five minutes past three that it all began. The railway minister flagged off the special train that chugged ahead with a shrill whistle so typical of the past. The train had been specially done up to match the very first one that was flagged off 150 years ago in all respects – had the same number of 14 carriages, carried the same number of 400 people, took the same journey time and travelled the same distance from Bori Bunder to Thane. The interiors even had the chandeliers, floral curtains, plush seats, wooden folding tables and toilets with showers and bathtubs! Let's climb into one of these coaches here," said uncle 'Bholu' as he began telling them all about how the Indian Railway network was built.

"It was during the British rule in India ...Lord Dalhousie was then the Governor General. It required a lot of planning. The work of construction began in 1851 and took over 25 months to be completed with 10,000 people engaged in it! You can see in this museum, the engines and coaches that were used then. Today the museum has become a custodian of the glorious heritage of our railways.

Namratha and Jaison looked at the displays with awe and wonder.

"Today there are 9 railway zones," observed Jaison.

"Yes. Also, over 12,000 trains run daily through 63,028 kms serving over a billion people. It is mammoth in size and strength today. That is probably why an elephant was chosen to be the mascot," explained uncle 'Bholu' as they stepped out of the grand coach. "This year is the Passenger Amenities Year and the

Indian Railways has planned a lot to improve the comfort levels of its passengers."

They were now ready to have a drink.

"We must also help to maintain the trains in good condition and not damage them. As children who love train journeys, we must be responsible to protect national property," said Namratha taking a sip.

"Are you ready for a quiz session on Indian railways?" asked uncle Bholu.

The children sat upright, excited. While uncle 'Bholu' asked the questions, answers came like shots from a gun.

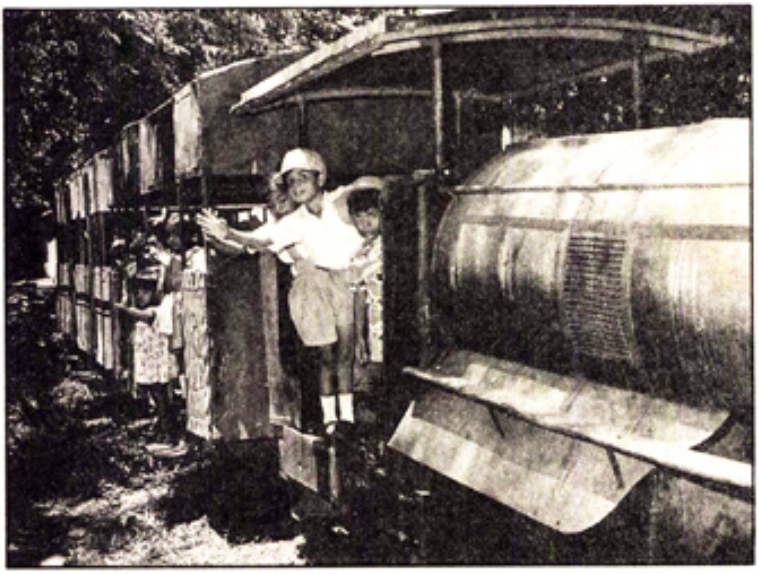
"First railway company : East Indian Company and Great Indian Peninsular Railway Company.

First train journey : Mumbai to Thane on April 16, 1853.

First railway terminus : Victoria Terminus, Bombay.

First super fast train : Rajdhani Express, between New Delhi and Howrah.

150 GLORIOUS YEARS



First double decker train : Sinhagadh Express.

Longest railway bridge : The Dehri-on-Sone railway bridge.

Longest passenger train route : Jammu Tawi - Kanya Kumari (3,750 kms).

Longest platform : Kharagpur in West Bengal, 833 m long. Also the world's longest.

Fastest train : Shatabdi Express between New Delhi and Bhopal at a speed of 140 kmph.

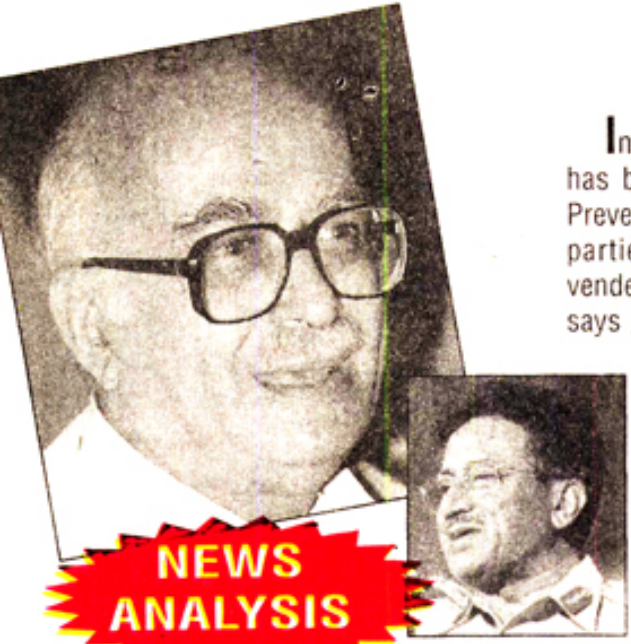
Most tunnels on a route : The Kalka - Shimla rail route (102 tunnels).

Railway station at the highest altitude : Ghoom on Darjeeling Himalayan Railway.

The busiest railway station : Lucknow."

- Based on facts sent by Namratha, Avila Convent Mat. H.S.S., Coimbatore and Jaison, Vidyavardhini's Junior College, Mumbai

Cover illustration : **Jeyaraj**



NEWS ANALYSIS

WILL THE KILLINGS EVER STOP?

The people of Jammu and Kashmir continue to suffer on account of cross border terrorism. As our home minister Advani put it, the killing of innocent poor civilians is "terrorism in it's most naked form."

The latest tragedy was in Jammu when 27 people lost their lives, including a boy.

"But what is the strategy of the central government to eradicate this evil?" - Many people have begun to ask this question, but there seems to be no answer from the authorities, except to reiterate again and again that Pakistan should put an end to infiltration of terrorists across the border into India. But Musharraf seems to turn a deaf ear to this demand not only from India but also from the super powers.

★★★

In Tamilnadu, M.D.M.K. leader Vaiko has been arrested under POTA or the Prevention of Terrorism Act. Opposition parties have termed this as political vendetta. But the A.D.M.K. government says that Vaiko and his colleagues are actively supporting the LTTE, a banned terrorist organisation in India. Moreover the leader of LTTE, Prabhakaran is the prime accused in the Rajiv Gandhi murder case and extradition proceedings are still pending.

Vaiko's argument is that he is only giving lip sympathy to an organisation fighting for freedom in a foreign country and this cannot be taken as supporting terrorism within India.

What the judge will say if and when the case comes to court, is anybody's guess. For, this is the first time a POTA case with political implications is being discussed. There is a lot to be said in favour of and against both sides!

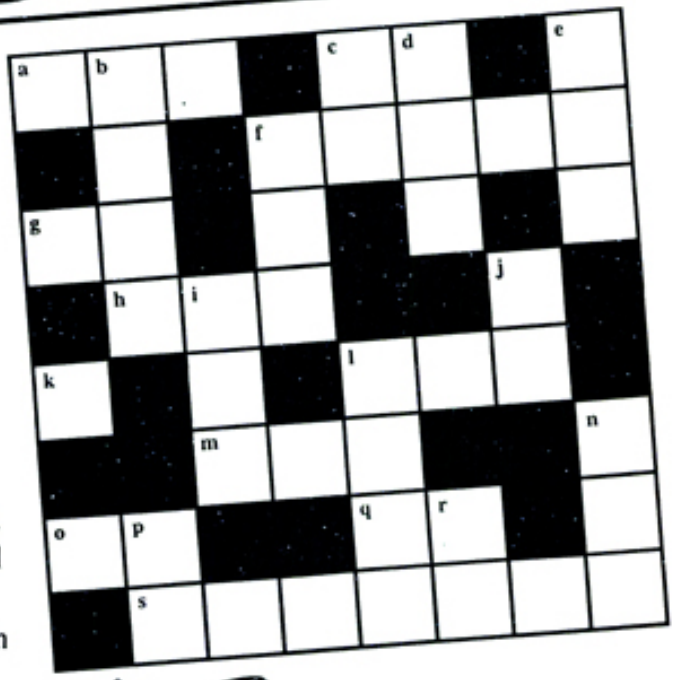
★★★

The election to the highest office of our country is over. Abdul Kalam has assumed office as the President of India. The left sponsored Lakshmi Sahgal put up a symbolic fight, though she knew that she cannot win. This is good for democracy since many issues were discussed during the campaign and people had an opportunity to weigh the policies of both the ruling N.D.A. and the opposition. Now that the President has been installed in office, attention has turned to the vice presidential poll.

Edited, printed and published by K. Rajendran at Bharathan Press on behalf of Bharathan Publications Private Limited. Address : 47, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Ekkaduthangal, Chennai - 600 097.
Telephones : Editorial : 2345624; Circulation Manager, Subscription and Advertisement : 2345623; Chief Administrative Officer : 2345622; Fax: 2345621
Subscription : (Inland) Annual Rs. 72/-; Half Yearly Rs. 36/-
Overseas (Air Mail) Annual Rs. 400/-; Half Yearly Rs. 200/-

NUMBER CROSSWORD

This is a number crossword. Use the clues and solve it.



Clues Across :

a) 217 + 199

c) 1, 3, 6, 10, ?, 21

f) Ten thousand (express in numerical notation)

g) _____ black birds in a pie

h) Twice the angle of a circle

k) Two times itself times two

l) 37 dozens = ?

m) 1000 - 30

o) How many cards in a pack

q) Days in February (leap year)

s) A million and 27

n) An air bus - Boeing _____ ?

p) 7 x 7 - 28

r) degrees in a right angle.

- S. Sreenidhi, Std. IX, Balalok M.H.S., Chennai.

Down :

b) The year of our independence

c) The romans wrote this number like this : X

d) Half of 1010

e) James Bond's code number

f) 99, 102, 108, 111, 117, ?

j) A score + 4

i) 14 x 2 x 8 - 15

l) 24120 ÷ 6

Answer :

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The bright yellow coloured sulphur mushroom, also called the shelf fungus, grows on the trunks of trees.